DOG&SCISSORS 4
[ORIGINAL WORK] SHUNSUKE SARAI [ART]=KAMON OOBA
CHARACTOR DESIGN: TETSUHIRO NABESHIMA

CHAPTER 15
AND THEN...
...WHEN I WOKE UP, I FOUND I WAS BEING HELD CAPTIVE.
ALL THAT HAPPENED AFTER I GOT SEPARATED FROM NATSUNO...
...WAS I FELL FOR A TRAP, BLACKED OUT, AND GOT HELD CAPTIVE.
WHICH COMES TO A PRETTY LACKING REPORT.
ARE YOU STUPID?
I'M STARTING TO REALIZE I MIGHT BE.
BUT WOULD YOU MIND NOT MENTIONING IT?

DOG&SCISSORS 4

CHAPTER 15 ✂ A DROWNING MAN WILL GRASP AT A DOG (3)

[ORIGINAL WORK] SHUNSUKE SARAI

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CHAPTER 15 ✕ A DROWNING MAN WILL GRASP AT A DOG (3)

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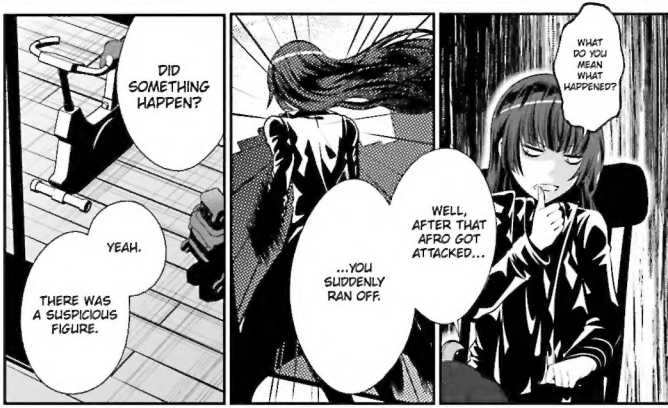
TIED
UP
WITH
VINYL
STRING
WHY WOULD YOU BE HELD CAPTIVE BY YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
THE OLDER BROTHER'S CRAZY FOR BOOKS AND THE LITTLE SISTER'S CRAZY FOR TYING PEOPLE UP.
WHAT KIND OF UPBRINGING DID YOU RECEIVE IN THE HARUMI HOUSEHOLD?
THAT'S WHY IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
GETTING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY AT ALL.
WHAT'S THAT EVEN MEAN?
DON'T TALK LIKE HOLDING SOMEONE HOSTAGE IS SOMETHING YOU DO TO WHEN YOU'RE "BUDDY-BUDDY"!
GETTING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY AND HOLDING YOU HOSTAGE.

BUDDY-BUDDY? BUDDY-BUDDY, BUDDY-BUDDY, BUDDY-BUDDY, BUDDDD!
O...
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY!
WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU?


WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, AFTER THAT AFRO GOT ATTACKED...
...YOU SUDDENLY RAN OFF.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YEAH.
THERE WAS A SUSPICIOUS FIGURE.

IT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE SLASHER.
OH.
WAIT, WHAT?!

HE WAS THERE?
THE CULPRIT?!
WELL, THE AFRO HAD JUST BEEN ATTACKED.
SO OF COURSE THE CULPRIT WOULD BE NEARBY.
WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE, BUT...
...HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS HIM?
BECAUSE HE HAD A SHARP OBJECT WITH HIM.
SHARP OBJECT?
THE AFRO WAS CUT BY SOMETHING EXTREMELY SHARP.
NOT SOMETHING CHEAP LIKE A BOX CUTTER OR BUTTERFLY KNIFE.
IT'S SOMETHING MORE SINISTER WITH A REAL BLADE TO IT.
SO ANYONE IN THAT CROWD CARRYING SUCH AN OBJECT ON HIM...
...WOULD HAVE TO BE THE CRIMINAL.

THE SLASHER.
YEAH, BUT...
...EVEN IF LOGIC DEMANDS THAT...
...NOBODY WOULD JUST GO AROUND BRANDISHING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CLEARLY.
THERE WAS SOMEBODY BEHAVING VERY UNNATURALLY.
UN-NATURALLY?
HOW?
A SHARP OBJECT WITH A REAL BLADE ON IT...
...WOULD ACTUALLY BE VERY DIFFICULT TO STORE.
AND YOU CAN'T JUST CARRY IT AROUND UNSHEATHED IN A BAG OR SOMETHING.
AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU NEED SOMETHING TO WRAP THE BLADE WITH.
BUT WE RUSHED RIGHT ONTO THE SCENE AFTER HE'D ATTACKED THE AFRO.
AND THERE WERE LOTS OF WITNESSES.

I CAN'T VERY WELL IMAGINE THAT THE CULPRIT WAS ABLE TO COMPLETELY SHEATH HIS WEAPON.
THEREFORE, HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE OFF THE PECULIAR AIR OF TRYING TO COVER UP HIS BLADE.
I SEE.
AS SOMEONE WHO'S ALWAYS WALKING AROUND WITH A SHARP OBJECT ON HER, NATSUNO WOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT IT.
THEN AGAIN, YOU CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR IT.
IT CAN BE SO SLIGHT.
BUT IF THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED ...
...THEN THAT MEANS THE CASE OF THE SLASHER...
...HAS BEEN SOLVED.

...HE GOT AWAY.
WHY NOT?
THAT'S...
...NOT NECESSARILY TRUE.

BUT...
...YOU STILL SAW WHO IT WAS, RIGHT?
...NOPE.
CAW
YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T CATCH HIM?
HUH?

I DIDN'T GET A LOOK AT HIS FACE.
AND WAS WEARING A HOOD.
HE WAS FAST.
NO.

Hah...
WOW.
YOU ARE SO USELESS.
ALL RIGHT THEN.
I'LL DECIDE YOUR PUNISH-MENT LATER.
I'D NEVER LET SOME SLASHER...
...ESCAPE ME.
BUT...
...YOU JUST DID, REMEMBER?
...OH, RIGHT.
COME ON!
I WAS THIS CLOSE TO CATCHING HIM!

JUST A FEW MORE CENTI-METERS.
MORE LIKE A FEW MORE MILLIMETERS!
IT'S JUST THE SAME...
...AS IF I'D CAUGHT HIM.

黒猫
THE BLACK CAT
ポー
POE
THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE YOU MADE THE WHOLE THING UP.
It's a good thing you're not a detective.
THAT'S A PRETTY FUZZY STANDARD.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE CLAIMING TO HAVE SEEN A FIGURE.
BUT I WAS SO CLOSE TO HIM!

WELL, WHOEVER IT WAS, HE WAS SHORTER THAN ME.
I'D SAY ABOUT THIS TALL.
HMM.
Whoa, stop getting things ready for my punishment.
I SWEAR YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS LATER.
IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE YOU CONVENIENTLY MADE UP THIS CRIMINAL.
I WONDER IF THAT MIGHT LEND ITSELF AS A CLUE.
NATSUNO'S A PRETTY SMALL-FRAMED WOMAN AS IT IS.
MAYBE THE CRIMINAL WAS A GIRL OR EVEN A CHILD.
NAH.
IT'D BE RUSHING TO CONCLUSIONS TO ASSUME THAT.
THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE THESE DAYS.
Lol ta-style older women, guys that look like girls, and kids who have old faces
WERE THERE ...
...ANY OTHER CLUES?
YES.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

HMM.
IT'S NOT COMING OUT EASILY.
THUMP
THERE.
THIS IS...
YOUR...
...BOOK.
秋山忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA

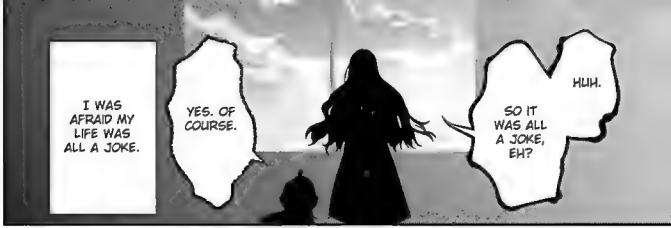
VOLUME SIX OF THE DEADLY SINS SERIES "GLUTTONY."
AND THE CONTROVERSIAL BOOK THAT IS HER REPRESENTATIVE WORK.
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
GLUTTONY
WHO WOULD DROP SUCH A THING?!
OF ALL THE DISGRACEFUL...!
I PICKED IT UP.
WHAT...
...ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?
GLUTTONY
ANYBODY WOULD NOTICE IF THEY'D DROPPED THIS BOOK.
It makes a pretty loud sound when it hits the ground.
WHOEVER IT WAS LACKS ATTENTION AND TRAINING.
DROPPING SUCH A GOOD BOOK LIKE THAT.
HUH?
THE CULPRIT DROPPED IT.

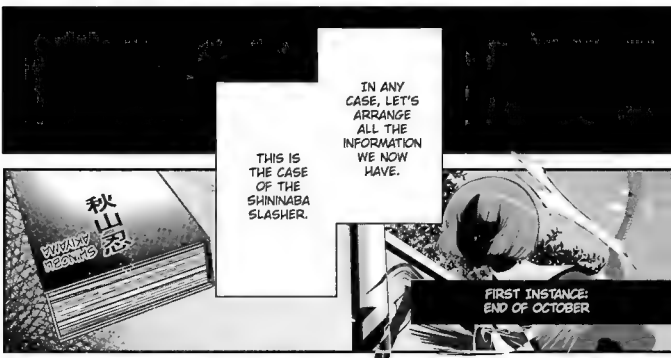
THE GUY WHO ATTACKED THE AFRO.
IT SEEMS THE SLAHSER ...
...DROPPED THIS BOOK.
....
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR ME TO DO.

ACCEPT THE TRUTH.
LET'S TURN YOU INTO THE POLICE.
OKAY?

I DIDN'T DROP THE DARN THING!
I ONLY WROTE IT!
YES, YES.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THE WAY SHE PURPOSELY LEFT BEHIND ONE OF HER OWN BOOKS AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
...MUST BE A MESSAGE SAYING SHE WANTS SOMEBODY TO STOP HER CRIMES.
That must be it.
DON'T WORRY.
YOUR CRY FOR HELP HAS BEEN HEARD.

IT'S OKAY.
THEY'LL UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND, AND THEY WON'T HAVE TO!!
YOU'RE IN A SLUMP.
ALL SORTS OF STRESSORS WERE BUILDING UP.
THEY STILL ARE BUILDING UP!
I'M THE CLOSEST ONE TO YOU.
I ONLY WISH I'D REALIZED SOONER.
REALIZE THIS!
IT WASN'T ME!!
I PROMISE I'LL COME VISIT YOU.
THAT DOES IT, I'LL KILL YOU.
ONCE I KILL YOU, YOU'LL FINALLY SHUT UP.
I... I'M SORRY.
I WAS ONLY KIDDING.


I WAS AFRAID MY LIFE WAS ALL A JOKE.
YES. OF COURSE.
HUH.
SO IT WAS ALL A JOKE, EH?


IN ANY CASE, LET'S ARRANGE ALL THE INFORMATION WE NOW HAVE.
THIS IS THE CASE OF THE SHININABA SLASHER.
秋山忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
FIRST INSTANCE: END OF OCTOBER

SOME VOLUME OF THE DEADLY SINS SERIES
[大罪シリーズ]のいずれか
本田書店
HONDA BOOKSTORE
秋山忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
IT GIVES ME CHILLS THINKING ABOUT IT.
SECOND INSTANCE: BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER

IN EVERY INSTANCE, SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS WERE INVOLVED.
THIRD INSTANCE: MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER

GLUTTONY
暴食
...FOR THE SLASHER TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS.
IF IT WERE JUST A CRIME FOR PLEASURE, THERE'D BE NO NEED...
WHAT IS THE CRIMINAL'S AIM?
FOURTH INSTANCE: NOVEMBER 20TH (TODAY)
EVEN IF HE WERE BEING CHASED BY NATSUNO...
...I CAN'T IMAGINE HE'D DROP SUCH A THICK BOOK BY ACCIDENT.
GLUTTONY
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
THE CRIMINAL WENT SO FAR AS TO DROP "GLUTTONY" ...
...IN ORDER TO LINK THE EVENT WITH SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS.

IF THIS WERE A MYSTERY NOVEL...
...THE EVENTS WOULD BE MODELED AFTER THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THE BOOK.
THE SO-CALLED "LOOK AT ME!" TACTIC.

IT'S TOO SOON TO JUMP TO THAT CONCLUSION...
...SINCE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OTHER BOOKS THAT WERE INVOLVED AT THE OTHER ATTACKS WERE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO THIS SITUATION.
THERE'S NO SLASHER IN "GLUTTONY."

ARROGANCE
ENVY
WRATH
SLOTH
GREED
GLUTTONY
IN OTHER WORDS, A MESSAGE MEANT FOR YOU.
THAT AUTHOR SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
MAYBE IT'S A MESSAGE TO THE AUTHOR.
MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING SIMPLER THAN THAT.

BY INVOLVING HER BOOKS IN HIS ATTACKS...
A-ha!
GLUTTONY
SHINOBU AMAMA
...IT MIGHT BE HIS GOAL TO BRING THE AUTHOR'S ATTENTIONS TO WHAT HE'S DOING.
I'LL ADMIT IT'S AN UNUSUAL WAY TO GO ABOUT IT.
THEN...
...WHAT MIGHT THE CRIMINAL BE TRYING TO TELL YOU?
GOOD QUESTION.
I DON'T KNOW.
ONE THING'S FOR SURE.
IT'S NOT FRIENDLY.
INDEED.
IF THE CRIMINAL BEHIND THESE STREET ATTACKS IS DOING IT...
SHINOBU AMAMA
...WE KNOW FOR SURE IT'S NOT A NICE MESSAGE.

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE...
...THE CRIMINAL BEARS SOME KIND OF ILL WILL TOWARDS SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
DO YOU REMEMBER EVER DOING SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE SOMEONE BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU?
IT SURE FEELS LIKE THAT.
ILL WILL.
MAYBE.
SHE'S THINKING IT OVER FOR A LONG TIME.
....
I'll bet there are plenty of things she's done to warrant ill will against her.

LIKE YOU.
I'M THINKING SERIOUSLY HERE, SO WOULD YOU PLEASE BE QUIET?
Though a little late to that.
SLOTH
秋山忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
GREED
GLUTTONY
WHEN YOU'RE A WRITER...
...THE MORE FANS YOU HAVE...
...THE MORE LIKELY THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME ODDBALLS AMONG THE BUNCH.
SEVEN DEADLY SINS
大罪
WRATH
GLUTTONY
ARROGANCE
ENVY
SLOTH
BUT IF WE THINK ALONG THOSE LINES, THAT RAISES ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM.
IF THESE ARE THE CRIMES OF A FAN, THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE'D USE SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS.
GOOD POINT.
IF IT'S NOT JUST A COINCIDENCE, THAT BRINGS UP THE BIGGEST PROBLEM.
WHY ARE THE CRIMES...
...BEING COMMITTED IN SHININABA?

FOR US, THIS IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...LIVES IN SHININABA.
BUT THE FACT THAT KIRIHIME NATSUNO AND SHINOBU AKIYAMA ARE THE SAME PERSON...
...IS NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSED INFORMATION.
IT MEANS...
...THESE CRIMES ARE BEING COMMITTED BY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS...
GLUTTONY
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
...THAT I, SHINOBU AKIYAMA, LIVE HERE IN SHININABA.

STILL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY BOOKS...
...ARE LINKED TO A CRIME.
WHEN I CALLED MY SIS, SHE DIDN'T SAY A THING ABOUT IT.
THAT'S ALSO PROBABLY WHY SHE WOULDN'T GIVE ME ANY INFORMATION.
KNOWING NATSUNO'S PERSONALITY...
...SHE PROBABLY KNEW SHE'D LAUNCH HER OWN INVESTIGATION.
SPEAKING OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS...
...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE NAGGING AT ME.
THE APPEARANCE...
...OF MY LITTLE SISTER MADOKA.
AND THE TRAP SHE LAID USING THE FOURTH VOLUME OF THE DEADLY SINS SERIES "SLOTH."
SLOTH
SHINOBU AKIYAMA

HER SHOWING UP...
...COULDN'T HAVE WORSE POSSIBLE TIMING.
THERE'S NO WAY...
...MADOKA'S THE SLASHER.
IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED, THEN TRY SNIFFING THE BOOKS.
YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU CAN SMELL YOUR SISTER ON THEM OR NOT.
I'm still traumatized by that red curry.
NAH.
MY NOSE IS CURRENTLY OUT OF ORDER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M EVEN SUSPECTING MY SISTER OF BEING A SLASHER.
BUT MADOKA IS MADOKA AND HER BIZARRE BEHAVIOR IS PRETTY CONSPICUOUS.
ENOUGH SO THAT SHE'D TIE YOU UP.
DON'T READ MY THOUGHTS.
Though it's a little late for that
ISN'T THIS THE TIME IN EVERY GIRL'S LIFE...
...WHERE SHE FEELS THE URGE TO TIE UP HER BIG BROTHER?
I think it's called obsessive compulsive tying up disorder
STOP TALKING ABOUT MY LITTLE SISTER LIKE SHE'S SOME KIND OF HOSTAGE MASTER.
And no, this isn't some phase!
I HAVE A SISTER AND AM A LITTLE SISTER MYSELF.
AND I'VE NEVER ONCE THOUGHT I WANTED TO IMPRISON MY OLDER SISTER.
PET SHOP
IGGY
THEN WHY'D SHE IMPRISON YOU?
I DON'T HAVE AN...
...ANSWER TO THAT.
And offer you fatal curry?

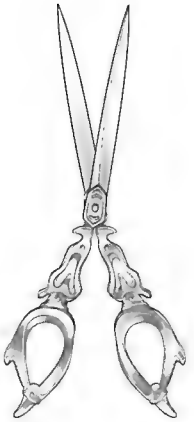
I'd never even dream it.
...THINK I WANT TO DO THAT.
Is it only my imagination or do you sound awfully eager?
SAY THAT LIKE YOU MEAN IT.
THAT'S HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
NORMALLY.
SHE'S A CUTE OLDER SISTER...
...BUT IMPRISONING HER? I'D NEVER...

IN ANY CASE.
DO YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU'D GET LOCKED UP BY YOUR LITTLE SISTER?
IF I DID THAT, I'D GET THREE OUTS...
...AS A BIG BROTHER AND AS A HUMAN BEING.

WHAT WOULD MAKE ANY GIRL MAD...
...WAS IF WHILE SHE WAS SLEEPING...
...SHE GOT KISSED.
DID YOU DO THAT?

NO, I DID NOT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?!
AND STOP BLUSHING LIKE YOU'RE SO EMBARRASSED BY IT!
You're making me embarrassed!
KISSING SOMEONE WITHOUT PERMISSION! FOR SHAME!
You sound like someone from the 60's!
I DIDN'T!
QUIT GETTING MAD BY YOUR OWN WILD ACCUSATIONS!
STILL, I'LL MAKE HER PAY...
...FOR TAMPERING WITH MY THINGS.
Quit sharpening that!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING SO CALMLY?!
Loriga Scis-tarou
WHAT?
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE NOT MINE?!
NO, I'M NOT.
I NEVER WAS.

TH...
THEN YOU'D BETTER...
...PAY ME FOR ALL THE RENT AND BOOKS AND OVERHEAD AND CONSOLATION MONEY AND CHILD-REARING EXPENSES!
THEFT
BOOKLESS LIFE
SOLITUDE
DEATH
HEALTH CARE CENTER
AND THEN YOU CAN JUST LEAVE!
I AM YOUR DOG.
Like_Ontleedkundige Tafelen
SOMEONE GET ME A USER'S MANUAL FOR THIS PERSON.
THEN WHAT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE?
N...
NO NEED TO GO THAT FAR.
CHAPTER 15 END



DOG & SCISSORS

CHAPTER 16
SO.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
ABOUT WHAT?
YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
FORGET THE SLASHER.
THE TRUTH STANDS THAT SHE IMPRISONED MY DOG.
UH...
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
IT'S PAYBACK TIME.
IT WAS MADOKA.

....
FINE. I DON'T CARE.
NO SKIN OFF MY BACK.
WELL, IT IS FOR ME.
FOR MY SOUL.

flat
YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN...
...FOR YOUR BOSOM?

SAY THAT AGAIN?
WHY DO I TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO STEP ON LANDMINES?

CHAPTER 16 ✂ NO PAIN, NO DOG

NOVEMBER 21ST

I never knew you can control your own sense of reality
YOU'RE NOT GRUMBLING ABOUT MY CRAZY ANTICS.
THIS IS JUST PART II OF OUR HUNT FOR THE SLASHER.
SO LET'S GET GOING.

YEAH, WELL.
I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.
I COULDN'T SLEEP ALL NIGHT THANKS TO A CERTAIN HORNDOG.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HIT THE HAY PRETTY HARD.
Natsuno must've been working
BUT IT REALLY IS STRANGE.
WHEN YOU'RE WRITING...
...YOU SLEEP LIKE A LOG.
YEAH, THAT HAPPENS SOMETIMES TOO.
NOW COME ON.
LET'S GO.
OKAY.

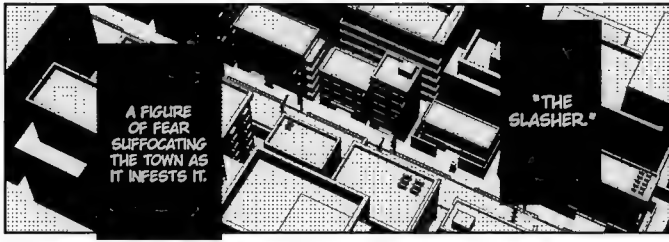
HUH? OH.
FIRST I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PUNISHMENT TO GIVE.
TO ME?!
OR TO THE SLASHER?!
BY THE WAY.
WHAT WENT DOWN AFTER I DISAPPEARED?

AFTER THE CULPRIT GOT AWAY...
...I BEGRUDGINGLY RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME ONLY TO FIND YOU GONE.
OH, YOU.
DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT.
I FIGURED.

AND THEN WHAT?
DID YOU START LOOKING FOR ME?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
ALL THAT WAS THERE WAS THE COLLAPSED AFRO.
I WAS SURPRISED.

MY SISTER TOLD ME OVER THE PHONE.
OH, GOOD. SO SOMEONE REPORTED IT.
NO.
THE POLICE CAME SOON AFTER.
HMM? BUT THEN...
...WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SCENE.
IT'S SO WEIRD.
SHE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO GET INVOLVED.
THAT'S JUST YOU THINKING YOU'RE THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.
WHEN I TOLD HER I WAS AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
...SHE GOT WICKED PISSED AT ME.
ANYONE WOULD.
AAW.
YOUR OLDER SISTER MUST HAVE HAD A HARD LIFE.
BUT I'VE NEVER NOT DONE SOMETHING THAT SHE TOLD ME NOT TO DO.

HAVING A FAMILY MEMBER LIKE THIS...
...MUST FEEL LIKE LIFE'S ONE BIG PUNISHMENT GAME.
WHAT A TROUBLE-SOME LITTLE SISTER.
THOUGH I'M NOT REALLY IN ANY POSITION TO LAUGH AT HER RIGHT NOW.



PET SHOP

IGGY

PARDON ME!!
BAM
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
Huff! Huff!
IGGY
SO.
WHAT HAPPENED?
WH...
W-W-W-WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?!

...YOU HAVEN'T REALLY TOLD HIM ANYTHING, NATSUNO.
IF MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT...
I SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU AND YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
YOU IDIOTIC AFRO.
EEK!
SPIT WHAT OUT?!
SPIT IT OUT.
COME ON.
Yipe!

WHIP
I'M TALKING ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE ATTACKED BY THE SLASHER YESTERDAY.

NOW CONFESS EVERY-THING.
BEFORE MY PATIENCE RUNS OUT.
EEEE!

I DON'T REMEMBER MANY DETAILS.
IT ALL HAPPENED SO SUD-DENLY.
MY RUN-IN WITH THE SLASHER YESTERDAY?
UH... WELL.

BUMP
HI!
I CAN'T SAY.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D BEEN CUT.
WHAT WAS HIS FACE? HIS HAIRDO?
GO ON. WHAT WAS THE CRIMINAL LIKE?
PLEASE PUT THE SCISSORS AWAY!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
PET SHOP
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO LOOK AT HIS FACE.
I GOT CUT, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
LOOK!
JUST LOOK AT IT!
BIG DEAL. JUST GO TO BARBER TO GET IT FIXED.
DON'T BE STUPID!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH TIME AND ENERGY I PUT INTO THIS HAIR!

DON'T EVEN SUGGEST THAT!
IF YOU WANT A PROPER CUT, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE.
ONLY THE LEADING BARBER IN THE WORLD OF AFROS CAN TOUCH THIS!
TO HAVE IT CLIPPED RANDOMLY LIKE THIS...
...IT'S DEAD AS FAR AS AFROS GO!

THIS CREATION WAS BORN FROM THE HANDS OF MEXICO-BORN OPTIMIST, GOMEZ!
gomez
IT MAY SEEM SIMPLE, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY VERY COMPLICATED!
I WOULD NEVER ENTRUST IT IN THE HANDS OF AN AMATEUR!

SWISH
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. JUST TELL ME ABOUT THE CULPRIT.
N...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
FLAKE

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...
...THE SUSPICIOUS FIGURE HAUNTING THE PARK A LITTLE WAY'S FROM THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...
...WHO RIPS UP BOOKS WHILE CRYING?
I DON'T.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
AND THEY'RE NOT JUST ANY BOOKS.
THEY'RE THESE SUPER THICK BOOKS.
LIKE THE ONES FROM...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S DEADLY SINS SERIES.
OH, AND ALSO.
APPARENTLY SHE'S A SMALL-FRAMED GIRL WITH SHORT HAIR.
WORD HAS IT SHE CUTS UP THE BOOKS WHILE MUTTERING "SHINOBU AKIYAMA, SHINOBU AKIYAMA" TO HERSELF.

A GIRL WITH SHORT HAIR.
THE DEADLY SINS SERIES.
THAT'S A BAD SIGN.
怠惰
SLOTH
SHINOBU AKIYAMA

HUH.
WHEN DID YOU GET THAT INFOR-MATION?
YOU DIDN'T MENTION ANY OF THAT YESTER-DAY.
THAT'S BECAUSE...
...I WAS ASKED ABOUT THE SLASHER CASE, NOT THIS ONE.

AND AFTER YOU HEARD MY PIECE...
...YOU IMMEDIATELY WENT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
THAT'S BECAUSE NATSUNO GENERALLY HATES AFROS.
Something about them being hard to cut.
Whine...
HMM. FINE.
SO ANY DISTINGUISHING FEATURES TO THE SLASHER?
GULP!
WHOA, I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE LITERALLY SAY "GULP" BEFORE.

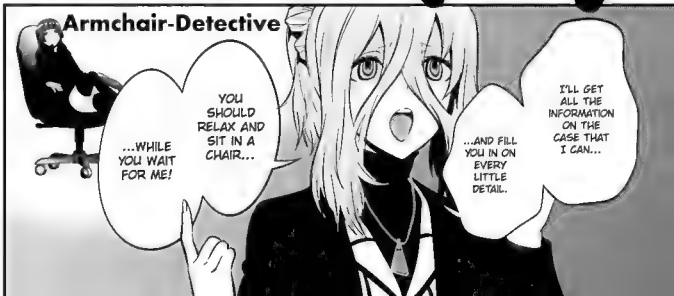
I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN.
ANY DISTIN-GUISHING FEATURES TO THE SLASHER?
UUH...
I DON'T KNOW!
PET SHOP
IGG
POOR AFRO.
YOU LOST A GOOD MAN.
SENSEI!!

DID YOU FIND THE PERSON BEHIND THE SLASHER ATTACKS?
NO!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SENSEI.

Haah...
OH.
WHAT ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY ABOUT, PERV?

BUT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!

PET SHOP
IGG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DOING SOME INVESTIGATING.
ABOUT THAT SLASHER.


Armchair-Detective
...WHILE YOU WAIT FOR ME!
YOU SHOULD RELAX AND SIT IN A CHAIR...
...AND FILL YOU IN ON EVERY LITTLE DETAIL.
I'LL GET ALL THE INFORMATION ON THE CASE THAT I CAN...

I COULD EVEN BE THAT CHAIR!
Haah...
DON'T.
AND WHAT KIND OF INVESTIGATION WOULD YOU CARRY OUT?
Would you sexually harass the afro girl and moan at Honda?

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
JUST DOING IT FOR A CHANGE OF PACE.
YOU SAID I NEEDED ONE ANYWAY, REMEMBER?
YES, BUT...
...THIS IS A SLASHER WE'RE DEALING WITH.
ISN'T IT DANGEROUS?

ANYWAY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN OR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING...
...BUT THE SLASHER SHOWED UP AGAIN.
R...
REALLY?!
Huh?
YEAH.
THE VICTIM GOT CUT UP ALL OVER HIS BODY...
...AND IS MOANING TO HIMSELF RIGHT NOW.

ALL OVER HIS BODY? IT WAS JUST ONE PLACE.
AND IF HE'S MOANING...
...IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF NATSUNO'S INTERROGATION TACTICS.
BUT...
...ANOTHER VICTIM?
...
I'M SO...
JEALOUS.
THAT IS A TERRIBLE RESPONSE.
Though it's just about what I was expecting from you.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO ANYWAY?
YOU SEEMED AWFULLY CONFIDENT LAST I SAW YOU.
I SWEAR THERE WON'T BE A NEXT VICTIM!
YOU FAILED TO STICK TO YOUR WORD.
THEN YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SHOW YOUR FACE TO ME?
I...
I'M SORRY.
HUFF!
QUIT GETTING OFF ON BEING SCOLDED.
HUFF!
YOU COULDN'T EVEN MANAGE TO MAKE YOURSELF A VICTIM.
YOU WORTHLESS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
WELL.
WHEN YOU GO ON LIKE THAT...
And don't say things like that. She'll only be more overjoyed.

YOU WORTH-LESS PERVERT.
I WISH YOU'D JUST DISAPPEAR OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET.
YOU'RE WORSE THAN A DOG.
LOWER THAN A MUTT.
YOU!
SCUM!
PIECE OF TRASH ...
GANGING UP ON ME LIKE THIS...
...FEELS SO GOOD!!
WHOA.
THAT'S THE FACE OF ECSTASY.

YOU COCK-ROACH.
AAH...
JUST LIKE THAT...
IT'S GOING TO COME OUT...!
JOLT
JOLT
DON'T LET IT OUT.
WHAT-EVER IT IS.
SO?
DID YOU GET ANY INFOR-MATION?
YES!
I GOT SOME GREAT INFOR-MATION!
秋山忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
GET THIS!
ALL OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS...
...ARE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE SOMEHOW!

...
...ANY-THING ELSE?
I KNOW, RIGHT?! I WAS SHOCKED TOO!
ALL THE VICTIMS OF THE SLASHER...
...WERE ATTACKED WHILE CARRYING A BOOK BY AKIYAMA-SENSEI!
...WAIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "ANYTHING ELSE"?
OH.
DOES THAT MEAN ...?
WE ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT YESTERDAY.
ALL THE VICTIMS HAD MY BOOKS ON THEM.
WE GATHERED THAT EASILY ENOUGH FROM OUR INTERVIEWS AROUND TOWN.
BUT WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
ANY OTHER INFOR-MATION...
LET'S SEE...
OH!

THERE'S A STICK JUST ACROSS THE WAY THAT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR HITTING ME WITH.
WHAT KIND OF INFOR-MATION IS THAT?
I'LL HIT YOU SO HARD YOUR ASS WILL FALL OFF.
SO BRING THAT STICK HERE NOW.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
DASH!
Don't actually go.
GEEH!
BUT YOU MUST ALSO KNOW...
...THAT ALL THE BOOKS WERE FROM THE DEADLY SINS SERIES,RIGHT?
SO IN THAT CASE...
...ALL I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT IS THAT STICK.
...HEY.
...YEAH?
THE BOOK THAT SLASHER DROPPED YESTER-DAY...
...WAS "GLUT-TONY."
GLUTTONY

IF THE DEADLY SINS SERIES IS WRAPPED UP IN THE SLASHER CASES...
...THEN I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT HE'D DROP ONE OF THE SIX VOLUMES.
THE PROBLEM IS...
怠惰 SLOTH
秋山忍 SHINOBU AKIYAMA
THE ONE MADOKA USED TO BAIT ME...
...WAS "SLOTH" FROM THE DEADLY SINS SERIES.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE...
...MADOKA REALLY IS—
TELL ME MORE...
...ABOUT THAT.
YOU MEAN THE STICK?
I'D LOVE TO!

STRAAAIN
OW, OW, OW.
STRAAAIN
IT HURTS SO GOOD!
SOME-THING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH THIS LADY.

ACCORDING TO WHAT SUZUNA SAID...
...THE BOOK THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL FROM THE FIRST CASE WAS CARRYING...
...WAS VOLUME 1 "ARROGANCE."
傲慢
ARROGANCE
秋山 忍
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
THE BOOK THE OFFICE LADY FROM THE SECOND CASE WAS CARRYING...
...WAS VOLUME 2 "ENVY."
嫉妬
ENVY
THE BOOK THE OFFICE WORKER FROM THE THIRD CASE WAS CARRYING...
...WAS VOLUME 5 "GREED."
強欲
GREED
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
I CAN'T...
...THINK IT'S JUST COINCI-DENCE.
YEAH.

CLAP
UMM.
SENSEI?
ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT IT.
JOB WELL DONE!

SLOTH
IT'S NO COINCIDENCE.
IF THIS IS ON PURPOSE, THEN...
GREED
THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
GLUTTONY
ENVY
SHINOBU AKIYAMA

KEEP UP YOUR INVESTIGATION!
Y-YOU MEAN ...
...YOU WANT ME TO KEEP GOING?
BUT I HAVEN'T SLEPT IN THREE DAYS.

JUST GO ALREADY.

GET TO WORK.
YOU SWINE!
HERE I GOOOOO!
RUN STRAIGHT TO HELL AND OUT OF OUR LIVES, FOR ALL I CARE.

LET'S GO AND SEE FOR OURSELVES.
WE'LL CHECK OUT THAT PARK WHERE THEY SAY ...
...THAT PERSON WHO CRIES WHILE RIPPING UP BOOKS IS.
GOOD IDEA.
LET'S GO.
憤怒
WRATH
THE ONLY BOOK THAT HAS YET TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE ...
...IS VOLUME 3, "WRATH."
IF "WRATH" WERE TO SHOW UP...
...IT'D BE WITH THAT GIRL.
RIGHT?
I CAN'T HELP BUT ENTERTAIN THE THOUGHT.
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO.
IT'S GETTING COLD.

FOUND IT.

I'VE READ IT OVER AND OVER...
...SO MANY TIMES THAT I'VE WORN IT OUT.
IT'S THE START TO CHAPTER THREE...
...OF VOLUME 3, "WRATH."
YEAH.
THAT COMPLETES THE SET.
WRATH
憤怒

WE'VE GOTTEN ALL THE CLUES WE CAN.
SO LET'S TRY TO FIGURE THIS THING OUT.
BY THE WAY, BAD DOG.
IS YOUR NOSE FEELING BETTER?
THIS IS TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO SNIFF IT.
OH, WELL.
NOT THAT IT'LL MAKE FOR MUCH OF A CLUE.
IT WAS THE LAST THING ...
...I COULD HAVE EVER WISHED FOR.
BUT REALITY IS CRUEL AND UNFORGIVING LIKE THAT.

CHAPTER 16 ⊰ END

DOG&SCISSORS

CHAPTER 17 ✂ NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING DOGGED (1)
KAZU.
WHO'S ...
...THAT GIRL?
KAZU.
OH, I SEE.
SO THAT'S YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
DON'T ...
DON'T CALL ME...
...HIS LITTLE SISTER!

A LITTLE SISTER'S A LITTLE SISTER.
HARUMI SIS.
I MEAN IT!
KAZU'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CALL ME HIS LITTLE SISTER!
DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME THAT!

CALM DOWN AND BE QUIET.
HARUMI SIS.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT!
AND WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?!

...WAIT.
WHY DID YOU CALL ME HARUMI?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE KAZUHITO HARUMI'S LITTLE SISTER.
SO YOUR LAST NAME'S HARUMI TOO.

RRRRRUMBLE
SO YOU HEARD ABOUT ME FROM KAZU, DID YOU?
YOU CRI-SIS.
DID YOU FORGET THAT?
THAT MUST BE IT.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP LOOKING AT A DOG?
HE'S NOT A DOG!
HE'S KAZU!
...WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

GIVE ME BACK MY BROTHER, YOU WITCH!
OR I'LL FILLET YOU!
CLAITER
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A MOUTH, YOU HOME WRECKER!
SWISH
I'LL CUT YOU UP INTO LITTLE BLOCKS!

Even though they only met less than a minute ago, the situation's already very explosive.
IT FEELS LIKE A FIGHT'S ABOUT TO BREAK OUT AND I CAN'T SPEAK UP.
E...
EITHER WAY, I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
DASH
IT'S OKAY. BE IT AS IT MAY, WE'RE ALL PEOPLE HERE.
I'M SURE WE CAN TALK IT OUT!
OUTTA THE WAY, KAZU!
I CAN'T KILL HER!
ZSSH
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, YOU DUMB DOG.
WAAH!
YOU LOOKIN' TO DIE?!

TRMBL TMRBL TRMBL
I'M RIGHT BACK WHERE I WAS.
AND I'LL JUST STAY HERE.
These two are so scary!
WAIT, NATSUNO!
JUST HOLD BACK FOR ONCE!
WHAT?!
I HAVE TO BRUSH OFF SPARKS WHEN THEY FALL!
AND AS FAR AS THE SLASHER CASE GOES...
...ASKING THIS GIRL ABOUT IT WILL BE THE FASTEST WAY TO LEARN ANYTHING!
DON'T FIGHT!
YEAH, BUT PLEASE! SHE'S MY SISTER!
...BUT!

YOU CAN CUT ME UP ALL YOU WANT AFTER THIS AND I WON'T COMPLAIN.
JUST DO ME THIS ONE THING!
...
EVEN IF IT'S 28 ROUNDS?
THAT'S A BIT MUCH.
BUT WHATEVER IT TAKES! JUST HURRY UP!
DEAL.
BUT WHILE I HAVE YOU, LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING.
Haah...
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ...
...THIS SHEET BEFORE?
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO SHREDDED ...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S THIS?
I LEFT SOME BEHIND?

?!!

BOOM

I SEE.

THAT'S ALL I HAD TO HEAR.

FWIP

GRIP

...SHINOBU AKIYAMA.

...BOOK BY...

...EVERY LAST...

ARROGANCE, SHINOBU AKIYAMA

I THOUGHT...

...FOR SURE...

...THAT I'D...

...BURNED UP...

ARROGANCE,
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
I THOUGHT...
...FOR SURE...
...EVERY LAST...
...THAT I'D...
...BOOK BY...
...BURNED UP...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA.

?!!
BOOM
I SEE.
THAT'S ALL I HAD TO HEAR.
FWIP
GRIP

My poor mucus membranes!
粘膜がぁぁぁ!!
ARE YOU A NINJA?!
MY EYES STING! AND MY NOSE!
DEAL WITH IT!
COME ON!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!

Koff!
THIS IS ASKING TOO MUCH OF A DOG'S BODY!
SHIT! WHERE'D THEY GO?!
GIVE ME BACK KAZU!

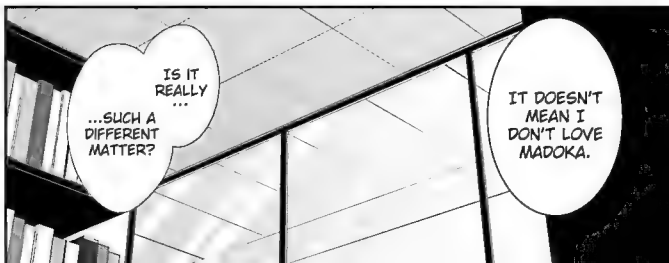
...KUH!
KAZU!
UWAAAAH!
Madoka?!
!?
UUH!
KOFF!
GUH!
UGH KOFF KOFF!

MY LITTLE SISTER.
THE SHEET FROM THE BOOK.
THE SMELL OF CURRY.
AND THEN HER SHOWING UP IN THE FLESH.
GLUTTONY, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
WITH ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE FALLING INTO PLACE LIKE THIS, I CAN'T MAKE ANY MORE EXCUSES.
THE PERPE-TRATOR BEHIND THE STREET ATTACKS...
...IS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE WHO WAS RIPPING UP BOOKS IN THE PARK.
I CAN'T TURN MY EYES AWAY FROM THE TRUTH ANYMORE.
MADOKA HARUMI.
ALL OF IT WAS DONE BY MY LITTLE SISTER.

WHY...
...WOULD SHE DO THIS?
OH.
THE ANSWER MIGHT BE SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK.

GLUTTONY,
SHINOBU AKIYAMA

NAMELY THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...TO TAKE AWAY HER PRECIOUS KAZU.
NOBODY'S TAKING ANYBODY AWAY.
SURE, I LOVE SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS...
...BUT THAT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER.


IT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T LOVE MADOKA.
IS IT REALLY ...
...SUCH A DIFFERENT MATTER?

AND I'M NOT SAYING THAT TO BE CONCEITED.
HOW...
...CAN YOU SOUND SO SURE?
GREED
SLOTH
WRATH
ENVY
ARROGANCE
GLUTTONY
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
I BELIEVE THAT AS FAR AS YOUR LITTLE SISTER WAS CONCERNED ...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA HAD A VERY BIG PRESENCE.
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW SHE MUST HAVE FELT.
BUT I'M SURE IT WAS PRETTY DULL FOR HER.
KNOWING YOU...
...ALL YOU PROBABLY EVER SPOKE TO YOUR SISTER ABOUT WAS BOOKS.
EVEN THOUGH HER BROTHER WAS THERE WITH HER ...
...HE WOULD ONLY EVER TALK ABOUT SOMEONE WHO WASN'T THERE AT ALL.
ARROGANCE

IT PROBABLY FELT AS IF SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...WAS STEALING HER BROTHER AWAY.
THAT'S...
OF COURSE.
IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BOOKS AND YOUR LITTLE SISTER...
...YOU'D CHOOSE YOUR SISTER, RIGHT?
UH...
SURE.

YOU ACTUALLY HESITATED?
YOU ARE THE WORST KIND OF BROTHER.
NO COMMENT.
YOUR LITTLE SISTER...
...PROBABLY ALSO REALIZED...
...THAT YOU'D HESITATE, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW LITTLE YOU THOUGHT OF HER.

SHE PROBABLY CAME TO THE EVENTUAL CONCLUSION...
...THAT HER OWN BROTHER...
...WOULD CHOOSE SHINOBU AKIYAMA, WHO WASN'T EVEN AROUND...
...OVER HER ANY DAY.
BUT IT'S STILL RIDICULOUS TO THINK I'D GET TAKEN AWAY BY SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
THAT'S JUST PLAIN CRAZY.
FOR NORMAL PEOPLE.
YES.
BUT...
...ADD ANOTHER FACTOR TO THE MIX...
...AND SHE'D HAVE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY.
CREAK
WHAT?
WHAT FACTOR?

HER BROTHER'S ...
...DEATH.
DON'T YOU SEE?
THAT'S YOU.
IT'S THE LOSS OF THE ONE THING MORE PRECIOUS TO HER THAN ANYTHING...
...THAT DESTROYED ALL SENSE OF BALANCE.

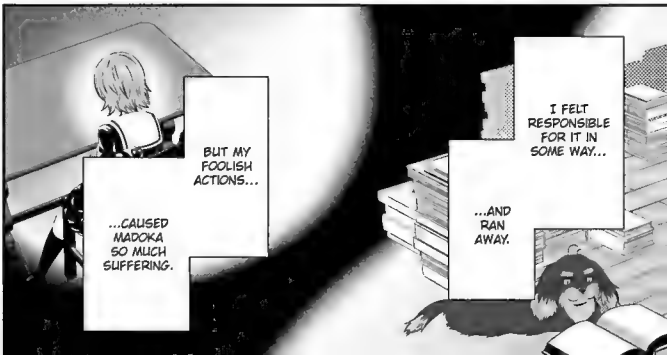
THE LATENT ENVY TOWARD SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...THAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN KEPT IN CHECK BY HER BROTHER'S PRESENCE.
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
OR PERHAPS ...
...I SHOULD CALL IT HATRED.

THE MOMENT SHE LOST HER BROTHER, THE FLOODGATES BURST.
IT'S...
IT'S BECAUSE I DIED?

THE HOLD-UP THAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST.
I'VE ALREADY ...
...COME TO TERMS WITH IT, MYSELF.
BUT I WONDER IF OTHER PEOPLE...
...FEEL AS MUCH CLOSURE SURROUNDING THE CASE.

MADOKA.
MY FAMILY.
WHAT DID THEY THINK ABOUT MY DEATH?
I DON'T KNOW.

IN FACT...
...I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.
IF I'D JUST ASKED NATSUNO ...
...I COULD HAVE GONE TO SEE MY FAMILY WHENEVER I WANTED.
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO FACE...
...THE AFTER-MATH OF MY DEATH.


I FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT IN SOME WAY...
...AND RAN AWAY.
BUT MY FOOLISH ACTIONS...
...CAUSED MADOKA SO MUCH SUFFERING.

I'M SURE THERE'S FULL OF MYSTERIES!
ENVY, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
MOO
SO YOU'RE SAYING...
...THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME?
BUT I'M...
...SUCH A NOBODY.
BUT...
...THE BIG BROTHER THAT SHE WAS RAMMING ALL THESE FEELINGS AGAINST DIED.
HE DIS-APPEARED FROM HER LIFE.
SO...
...WHERE ELSE DO YOU THINK THOSE FEELINGS COULD GO?
WHAT MIGHT BE HER NEW FOCUS?
BUT...
...THAT'S ...
ARE YOU SUGGESTING SHE'D TURN THEM TOWARD SHINOBU AKIYAMA?

SHINOBU AKIYAMA STOLE HER BROTHER FROM HER.
SO IF SHE COULD JUST GET RID OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...MAYBE HER BROTHER WOULD COME BACK HOME.

IT'S POSSIBLE ...
...SHE WAS FIXITATED ON THAT WILD FANTASY OF A PRAYER.
憤怒
WRATH, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
秋山忍

EVEN THOUGH THE DEAD...
...CAN NEVER ...
...COME BACK.

THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M DEAD.
AND YET I'M STILL ALIVE.
EVEN IF I'M IN THIS BODY...
...I'M ALIVE.
THEN...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
WE HAVE TO STOP HER.
...RIGHT?
NATSUNO.
WHAT?

I CAN'T DO IT ON MY OWN.
SO PLEASE.
HELP ME OUT.

NATSUNO WAS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT IN AUGUST FROM THE VERY START.
BUT THIS TIME'S DIFFERENT.
THIS CASE OF THE SLASHER...
...CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF MY MIS-HANDLING OF THE WHOLE THING.

DON'T LOOK SO WRETCHED.
I'M NOT SOME DIABOLICAL FIEND WHO LACKS SYMPATHY.
IT'S NOT THAT.
YOU'RE...
...AN UPSTANDING AND GOOD PERSON.

I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING THAT.
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ...
...ALL THE TORTURE I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH, HAVE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT.
I COULD NEVER FORGET THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE TO ME.
IT'S TRUE.
I COULD NEVER FORGET.
GLUTTONY SHINOBU AKIYAMA
GREED SHINOBU AKIYAMA
SLOTH SHINOBU
暴食
強欲
怠情
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S WORKS I'VE READ.
ARROGANCE
ENVY
WRATH
AND HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BATTLED FOR MY LIFE...
...AGAINST KIRIHIME NATSUNO.

WHAT YOU FEEL.
WHAT WORRIES YOU HAVE.
WHAT KEEPS YOU MOVING FORWARD.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU REALLY ARE.
ALL OF THAT.
I COULD NEVER FORGET.
THAT'S WHY...
...I'M TURNING TO YOU.
PLEASE.
LEND ME...
...A HAND.

SHEESH.
YOU'RE SUCH A TOUGH MUTT TO HANDLE.
THIS IS THE ONLY TIME...
...YOU ACTUALLY SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'LL DO IT.
AND WRAP THIS THING UP WITH A NEAT LITTLE BOW.
SURE.
I CAN'T HELP ADMITTING WHAT SHE DOES IS BAD.
Just go easy on her, okay?
I'M NOT SHOWING MERCY JUST BECAUSE SHE'S YOUR LITTLE SIS.
GOT IT?
...THANKS.

SHATTER

...!!

I...

CLUNK

...SMELL...

...KAZU.

You're wonderful!

Sister-in-law!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

...COULD EVENTUALLY END UP MY SISTER-IN-LAW.

AFTER ALL YOUR LITTLE SISTER...

OH, I'LL BE GENTLE ALL RIGHT.

NOTHING!

ANYWAY.

HUH?

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALREADY HERE.

You're wonderful!
Sister-in-law!
AFTER ALL YOUR LITTLE SISTER ...
...COULD EVENTUALLY END UP MY SISTER-IN-LAW.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH, I'LL BE GENTLE ALL RIGHT.
N-NOTHING!
ANYWAY.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALREADY HERE.
HUH?

SHATTER
...!!
I...
CLUNK
...SMELL
...
...KAZU.

KAZU.

I FOUUUND YOUUU.

CRACK

CHAPTER 17 8-END

CRACK

CHAPTER 17 : END

DOG&
SCISSORS

CHAPTER 18
HOW MEAN OF YOU TO RUN AWAY.
I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.
SO IT'S A GOOD THING I ATTACHED THAT TRANSMITTER TO YOU.
WHERE?!
俺 基本的には 全裸なんだぞ!!!
But I'm basically naked!
I LOST YOU YESTERDAY...
...BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY AGAIN.
I REMEMBERED HOW YOU ACTED LAST TIME.
I WILL NEVER ...
...LET YOU GO.
SCARY!!

PET SHOP

IGGY

CHAPTER 18 ✂ NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING DOGGED (2)

OH, KAZU.
NO NEED TO BE SO HAPPY.
I'M NOT HAPPY!
YOU'RE A REAL PIECE OF WORK.
DID YOU STORM THIS APARTMENT ...
...KNOWING THAT IT'S MY, SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S WORKPLACE?
...HUH?
THIS IS...
...WHERE SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...WORKS?

THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT...
...THAT EXPRESSION TELLS ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
THEN THAT MEANS ...
...YOU'RE ...
YOU GUESSED RIGHT.
I AM SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
YOU DID A REAL NUMBER ON MY PRECIOUS BOOKS.
I SEE.
SO IT'S YOU.
YOU'RE ...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA.

THE SHINOBU AKIYAMA WHO STOLE MY KAZU FROM ME!
I DON'T REMEMBER ...
...EVER OFFENDING YOU IN THE PAST.
SHUT UP!
I SEE NOW.
SO YOU'RE SHINOBU AKIYAMA.
YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE HIM AWAY AGAIN?
I WON'T LET YOU.
I WON'T LET YOU DO ANY SUCH THING!
I'M NOT HANDING OVER MY BROTHER ...
...TO ANYBODY EVER AGAIN!!
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER STEALING HIM.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
YOU WORM.

EVERYBODY BUT MY BROTHER IS A WORM!
THE WHOLE WORLD IS A GARDEN OF WORMS!
AND YOU'RE THE WORST WORM OF THEM ALL!
SHINOBU AKIYAMA!

I TOLD YOU!
...CALL ME...
...LITTLE SISTER!
DON'T ...
OKAY, CALM DOWN.
LITTLE SISTER.

And take off your shoes
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE.
AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME IN, USE THE FRONT DOOR.
BE QUIET, LITTLE SISTER.
ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!
BECAUSE OF YOU...
...I LOST KAZU!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
SHUT UP!
BUT YOU...
...CHANGED HIM.
I...
...WANTED TO BE WITH KAZU MORE.

YOU...
...MADE HIM LOSE HIS MIND.
YOU WARPED HIM.
YOU MADE HIM GO...
...SO FAR AWAY FROM ME.

ALL...
...BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID BOOKS!
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO THAT.
YOU LIKE MY BOOKS TOO?

WOULD YOU TELL ME YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THEM?
HA!
WHAT A JOKE!
WHO WOULD EVER LIKE YOUR BOOKS!

....
I READ YOUR BOOKS.
TO GET CLOSE TO KAZU.
I HAD TO READ SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS.
GLUTTONY, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
ARROGANCE, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
WRATH, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
ENVY, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
BECAUSE ...
...HE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT THEM SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY.
THEY MADE ME SICK.
BUT STILL I READ THEM.
ALL OF THEM.
SO I COULD BE CLOSER TO MY BROTHER.
WRATH
MADOKA.

I MADE IT TO MY BROTHER'S SIDE.
I FINALLY MADE IT THIS FAR.

新稲葉
SHININABA
...WHERE KAZU LIVED...
...MY BROTHER WOULD COME TO ME.
I KNEW THAT IF I CAME TO SHININABA...
I WASN'T WRONG.

BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP HIM.
HE'D EVEN TAKE A SHOT FOR HER.
HE LOVED HER THAT MUCH.
...EVERY TIME HE OPENED HIS MOUTH IT WAS ALWAYS SHINOBU AKIYAMA THIS AND SHINOBU AKIYAMA THAT.
AFTER ALL...

MADOKA HARUMI.
YOUR BROTHER ...
...IS NO LONGER.
LIES.
KAZU'S RIGHT HERE!
HE TOLD ME...
...WE'D ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!
MADOKA HARUMI!
FACE...
...REALITY.

YOU CAN HATE...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA ALL YOU WANT.
YOU CAN BLAME ME FOR EVERYTHING.
BUT...

...DON'T MISUNDER-STAND...
...WHAT YOUR BROTHER WAS THINKING.
SHUT UP!
YOU CAN'T TALK FOR KAZU!

YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT MY BROTHER!
THEN YOU MUST KNOW!

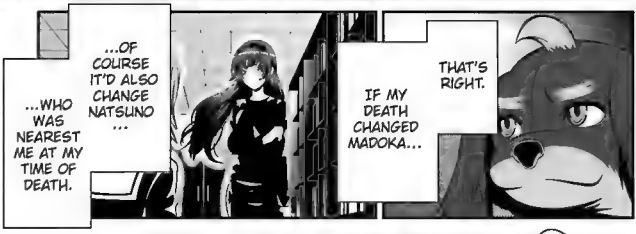
HOW YOUR BROTHER FEELS SEEING YOU LIKE THIS NOW.
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT...
...MORE THAN ANYBODY!
...?!
GREED, SHINOBU AKIYAMA
THINK ABOUT IT.
AND COME TO GRIPS.
WHAT WAS IT YOUR BROTHER WANTED?
WOULD YOUR BROTHER BE HAPPY...
...ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW?

ASK EVERY-THING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS WHOLE TIME!
THINK.
ASK THE BROTHER THAT'S INSIDE YOU.
WHAT MY BROTHER ...
...WANTED?
IF YOUR BROTHER REALLY WAS A READER OF MY WORKS...
...THERE'S NO WAY HE'D APPROVE OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
MY READERS WOULD NEVER WISH FOR THIS!
I BELIEVE THAT!

I...
...TRUST MY READERS.
YES, I DO.
YOU BELIEVE...
...IN MY BROTHER?
I FIRMLY BELIEVE...
...THAT THE BOOKS I WRITE...
...SEND THE RIGHT MESSAGE TO MY READERS!
THAT BOY.
KAZUHITO HARUMI.
DIED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
HUH?

KAZUHITO HARUMI...
...DIED PROTECTING ME FROM AN ARMED ROBBER.
WITHOUT A DOUBT...
...HE DIED FOR ME.
I KNOW IT FIRSTHAND.
THE RED OF HIS BLOOD.
AND COOLING OF HIS CORPSE.

N...!
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT.
LISTEN!!


...OF COURSE IT'D ALSO CHANGE NATSUNO ...
...WHO WAS NEAREST ME AT MY TIME OF DEATH.
IF MY DEATH CHANGED MADOKA...
THAT'S RIGHT.

I WILL NEVER FORGET IT...
...SO LONG AS I LIVE.
I CANNOT ERASE...
...KAZUHITO HARUMI'S DEATH FROM MY SOUL.
I CANNOT FORGET HIS DEATH.

THE DEAD CAN'T COME BACK...
...BUT IF HE WAS A FAN OF MINE THEN I WILL KEEP ON WRITING.
EVEN IF EVERYBODY FORGETS ME...
...I WILL KEEP WRITING...
...FOR THAT ONE PERSON!

FOR...
...MY BROTHER?
I'M A WRITER.
A WRITER CAN ONLY EXIST IF SHE HAS READERS.
ARROGANCE
ENVY
WRATH
SLOTH
GREED
GLUTTONY
IT IS WHEN SOMEONE READS IT...
...THAT MY BOOK IS FIRST COMPLETED.
SO LONG AS I HAVE READERS...
...MY BOOKS WILL NOT END.
IF THAT BOY...
...IS A READER OF MINE EVEN IN DEATH...
...I WILL CONTINUE WRITING!
THAT...
THAT IS ALL I HAVE!

HE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO ACT VIOLENTLY LIKE THIS.
YOU...
...COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDER-STAND.
I BELIEVE.
MY READERS...
...WOULD NOT CONDONE WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW.
AND IF KAZUHITO HARUMI WAS ONE SUCH READER...
...HE WOULD NOT FORGIVE YOU, EITHER.
CAN YOU BELIEVE...
...THAT EVEN NOW...
...YOUR OWN BROTHER LOVES YOU?
...?!

OPEN YOUR EYES!
MADOKA HARUMI!
THINK ABOUT HOW HE THOUGHT.
WHAT HE WANTED.
HOW HE...
...WANTED YOU TO LIVE.
TRUST KAZUHITO HARUMI.
TRUST YOUR OWN BROTHER.
DON'T TURN YOUR EYES AWAY FROM HIS DEATH.
FEEL WHAT'S SURE TO STILL BE INSIDE YOU!
...NO.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY...
...AS FAR AS KAZU IS CONCERNED ...
...I KNOW HE THINKS...
...I'M JUST A FAILURE OF A SISTER.
I KNOW THAT, AND YET...
...I STILL HAVE SPIRIT.
I HAVE FEELINGS ...
...I'VE CARRIED AROUND FOR A LONG TIME.

EVEN IF I'M WRONG.
EVEN IF I CAN'T BE SAVED.
EVEN IF I'M A LOST CAUSE.
EVEN SO...
...I CAN'T JUST END...

ぱ!
SNATCH
?!
...THE WAY THINGS ARE HERE AND NOW!

I TOLD YOU.
I'M NOT HANDING OVER KAZU!
DASH
WELL SAID, HARUMI SIS!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT!
WAIT, HEY!
MADOKA !!
IT'S OKAY.
THIS WILL BE OVER SOON.
RIGHT NOW, I AM NOT OKAY!
W-
WAIT! WAIT!!
WOOOO

AH.

THE CITYSCAPE AT NIGHT IS SO BEAUTIFUL.

I'M ESCAPING FROM REALITY FOR A MOMENT.

AND BLACKING OUT.

AH!

WOAAAAAH!

AH!
WOAAAAAH!

AH.
THE CITYSCAPE AT NIGHT IS SO BEAUTIFUL.
I'M ESCAPING FROM REALITY FOR A MOMENT.
AND BLACKING OUT.

WAIT.
NO!
AH!
YOU'RE AWAKE?
SORRY.
....
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS CEILING.
AND SORRY FOR ALWAYS CALLING YOU...
...KAZU.
YOU DID NOTHING WRONG. I AM KAZU.
AH HA HA.
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE KAZU.
HONDA BOOKSTORE
IGGY
I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT IF I CAME TO SHININABA, HE'D BE THERE.
I THOUGHT HE'D BE LIVING THERE SOME-WHERE.
I WAS SO SAD AND TORN UP INSIDE...
...I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LOOK FOR HIM.

EVEN THOUGH DEEP DOWN...
...I KNEW I'D NEVER FIND HIM.
BUT...
...THE MOMENT I SAW YOU CAUGHT IN THAT MOUSETRAP ...
...IT REALLY FELT LIKE YOU WERE KAZU.
AFTER ALL, ONLY A BOOKWORM LIKE MY BROTHER ...
...WOULD FALL FOR A TRAP LIKE THAT.
SORRY. IT WAS BECAUSE I REALLY AM KAZU.
You were spot on, Madoka!
AND ONCE I THOUGHT YOU WERE KAZU...
...I DIDN'T WANT TO DENY THAT FEELING.
EVEN IF I WAS WRONG...
...I WANTED TO...
...FOLLOW MY HEART.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A PAIN.
BUT I HAD FUN.
IT REALLY FELT LIKE I WAS WITH MY KAZU AGAIN.
I CAN'T BE.
BUT I'M NOT DONE YET.
I REALLY CAUSED TROUBLE ...
...TO BOTH YOU AND THAT LADY.

AAW, I REALLY AM...
...A USELESS LITTLE SISTER.

THANKS.
...MY NUMBER ONE SISTER.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE...

I STILL DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING.
BUT I'M SURE...
...THAT IF I KEEP RUNNING AWAY...
...I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE KAZU.
SO AT THE VERY LEAST, I'M GOING TO FACE FORWARD...
...AND HIT HARD...
...TO THE VERY END.
WELL DONE.
YOU FIGURED OUT WHERE I'D BE.
YEP.
SINCE MY DOG KEEPS DISAP-PEARING ON ME...
...I IMPLANTED A TRANSMIT-TER ON HIM WHEN HE WAS SLEEPING YESTERDAY.
YOU TOO?!

SO.
YOU READY?
YOU DID CALL ME TO THIS WIDE OPEN SPACE.
OF COURSE.
I'M GOING TO CONQUER YOU WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.
CHAPTER 18 : END

MAGURO
EATER

DOG&SCISSORS

CHAPTER 19 ✂ A DOG IN A LION'S SKIN (1)

GREAT. I LIKE...
...THAT YOU'RE SO EASY TO READ.
OF COURSE.
I'M GOING TO CONQUER YOU WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA.
I'LL HACK YOU TO BITS...
...WITH MY KNIFE.
AND I'M GOING TO DO IT...
...USING THIS.
KNIFE?!
THAT LOOKS MORE LIKE A WEAPON YOU'D USE TO DEFEAT THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
Like the Bastard Sword or the Colossal Blade from Super Robot Wars
MAGURO EATER
K-KLICK

HUH.

THE MAGURO* EATER, EH? YOU'VE GOT QUITE A SPECIALIZED WEAPON ON YOU.

YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH IT?!

I SEE.

*MAGURO = TUNA

鮪喰
MAGURO-EATER

NO WONDER YOU WERE ABLE TO GET INTO MY APARTMENT.

AND SHE'S GOT IT FIGURED OUT?!

I was wondering how you did it.

"ALL" OF IT?

I'VE BEEN USING THIS TO DO ALL MY COOKING FOR KAZU.

I'VE BEEN SAVING MY NEW YEAR'S GIFT MONEY EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE...

...AND USED IT TO BUY THIS MAIL ORDER CUSTOMIZED KNIFE.

IT HAS MANY MEMORIES OF KAZU ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

KIRIHIME NATSUNO.

WRITER.

WITH THIS VERSATILE STATIONARY TOOL "SCIS-TAROU"...

...I WILL SLICE YOU TO SHREDS.

MADOKA HARUMI.

KAZUHITO HARUMI'S LITTLE SISTER.

WITH THIS ELECTRIC-POWERED KNIFE "MAGURO EATER"...

...I WILL RUN YOU THROUGH.

THEN LET'S GET STARTED.

BY THE WAY. I NEVER ASKED YOU YOUR NAME.

"SHINOBU AKIYAMA" IS A PEN NAME, ISN'T IT?

YEAH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT'S WHY...

...I WILL NOT LOSE!

THAT'S WHY...
...I WILL NOT LOSE!
THEN LET'S GET STARTED.
BY THE WAY. I NEVER ASKED YOU YOUR NAME.
"SHINOBU AKIYAMA" IS A PEN NAME, ISN'T IT?
YEAH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.

KIRIHIME NATSUNO.
WRITER.
WITH THIS VERSATILE STATIONARY TOOL "SCIS-TAROU"...
...I WILL SLICE YOU TO SHREDS.
MADOKA HARUMI.
KAZUHITO HARUMI'S LITTLE SISTER.
WITH THIS ELECTRIC-POWERED KNIFE "MAGURO EATER"...
...I WILL RUN YOU THROUGH.

YOU...

...STOPPED IT?!

THEN...

...I'LL JUST STEAM-ROLL OVER IT!

FAIR AND SQUARE.

AND SO.

...WE FACE OFF!!

FAIR AND SQUARE.
AND SO.
...WE FACE OFF!!

YOU...
...STOPPED IT?!
THEN...
...I'LL JUST STEAM-ROLL OVER IT!

IT COULDN'T BE!
SLASH
...!!
HOP
I SEE.
THOSE AREN'T ANY OLD SCISSORS.
UH.
YOUR KNIFE'S NOT EXACTLY TYPICAL EITHER.

YOUR WEAPON'S ONLY GOT SIZE GOING FOR IT.
IT WON'T WORK AGAINST MY SCIS-TAROU!
PSSHT
MY MAGURO EATER WILL NOT BE BEATEN!
TAP
TAP
TAP
MAGURO EATER.
SHAPE CHANGE.
GENOCIDE MODE.
ACTIVATE.
CLANG
VRR
MAXIMUM PRIORITY ON ANNIHILATION OF INGREDIENTS.

WAIT, THAT'S ...
...A CHAIN SAW?!

UWAH...!
THAT COULD BE PRETTY USEFUL...
...IN LANDSCAPE MAINTE-NANCE.

VWEEEE
HA HA.
I'LL CRUSH YOUR RIBS AND PULL OUT YOUR GUTS.
WHEN I FILLET YOU.
MY LITTLE SISTER IS FREAK-ISHLY SCARY!
WOBBLE
ZSSH
KUH...!

FIRST...
...IS ONE BLOW!
KUH! I...
I'M NOT DONE YET!!

NOT ON MY WATCH!
TAP
TAP
TAP
SHAPE CHANGE.
MAGURO EATER.
DASH!

THE REAL DEAL'S RIGHT HERE!
HA.
MADE YOU LOOK.
TCH!
THAT WAS A LITTLE CLOSE FOR COMFORT.
KUH!
I THOUGHT THAT'D WORK.

....
I KNOW THAT DOING THIS...
...WON'T AMOUNT TO ANY-THING.
I KNOW.
I REALLY DO.

HE'LL ...
...NEVER BE WITH ME AGAIN.
PLIP
KAZU'S...
...DEAD.
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO CALL MYSELF KAZUHITO HARUMI'S LITTLE SISTER!
...IF I GIVE UP HERE AND NOW...
BUT...

KAZU AND I...
...ARE STILL BONDED BY THAT.
I CAN'T BE DEFEATED IN THIS HALF-BAKED FIGHT.
SO THIS IS IT!
MAGURO EATER.
DE-STROY MODE.
SHAPE CHANGE.
CLATCH
MAXIMUM PRIORITY ON DESTRUC-TION OF INGREDI-ENTS.
FINAL ACTIVA-TION!
CLANK

KIRIHIME NATSUNO !!!

!!!!

THIS STRIKE SYMBOLIZES MY BREAK FROM THE PAST.

THE ONE BLOW TO SHOW MY READINESS.

AND THE BEACON FOR A NEW FUTURE!

TAKE THIS!!

THIS STRIKE SYMBOLIZES MY BREAK FROM THE PAST.
THE ONE BLOW TO SHOW MY READINESS.
AND THE BEACON FOR A NEW FUTURE!
TAKE THIS!!

KIRIHIME NATSUNO !!!
!!!!

...THE BATTLE BETWEEN KIRIHIME NATSUNO AND MADOKA HARUMI ENDED.

AND SO...

I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED ...

...IT'D BE SO OUT OF THIS WORLD.

I'm exhausted just witnessing it.

TMP

CLANG

GOOD...

...ANSWER.

STAB

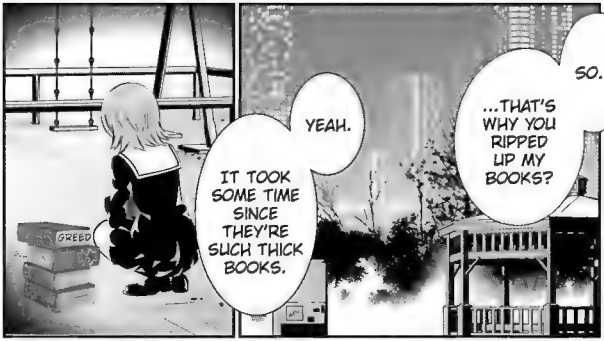
CLANG
GOOD...
...ANSWER.
STAB

...THE BATTLE BETWEEN KIRIHIME NATSUNO AND MADOKA HARUMI ENDED.
AND SO...
I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED ...
...IT'D BE SO OUT OF THIS WORLD.
I'm exhausted just witnessing it.
TMP

I THOUGHT FOR SURE THEY'D RESORT TO FISTS.
OR START A CATFIGHT.
PLUS THE FOCUS OF ALL THEIR HARM CENTERING AROUND ME.
AND THEY SHARE HAVING TO HIDE THEIR ABNORMALITIES.
WELL, THEIR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTHS ARE SOMETHING THEY HAVE IN COMMON.
The only thing missing is that they're not by a riverbed at dusk.
...WHERE ONCE THE FIGHT'S OVER, FRIENDSHIP BLOSSOMS.
I GUESS IT'S THAT THING...
OKAY, GIRLS.
APOLOGIZE TO ME.

SO.
TELL ME WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF MY BOOKS.
AAAW.
I FEEL SO EMBARRASSED.
BY THE WAY.
WHY WERE YOU CUTTING UP MY BOOKS?
IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE THEM, YOU COULD HAVE JUST TOSSED THEM OUT.
OR SOLD THEM TO A USED BOOKSTORE.
SERIOUSLY.
PEOPLE DON'T JUST HACK UP BOOKS.
WELL.
KAZU ALWAYS TOLD ME...
...THAT WHEN YOU SELL BOOKS TO USED BOOKSTORES ...
...THE AUTHOR DOESN'T MAKE ANY MONEY OFF OF IT.

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF BOOKS
1) GIVING AWAY SPOILERS
2) TREATING BOOKS ROUGHLY
3) TALKING ABOUT A BOOK EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT
4) THOUGHTLESSLY SOILING A BOOK
5) NEVER RETURNING A BORROWED BOOK
6) INTERRUPTING SOMEONE WHILE THEY'RE READING
7) COLLECTING BOOKS YOU BUY ONLY TO NEVER ACTUALLY READ THEM
DID I EVER SAY THAT? THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF BOOKS
According to the Seven Deadly Sins of Books, I should have received the death penalty. This falls under Sins two and four.
SO LONG AS YOU DISPOSE OF THEM IN A WAY WHERE THEY LOSE THEIR ORIGINAL FORM.
OR SET THEM ON FIRE.
SO YOU SHOULD RIP THEM UP INSTEAD.


GREED
IT TOOK SOME TIME SINCE THEY'RE SUCH THICK BOOKS.
YEAH.
...THAT'S WHY YOU RIPPED UP MY BOOKS?
SO...

I GUESS PEOPLE PASSING BY THOUGHT I SEEMED PRETTY WEIRD.
...AND WOULD START CRYING.
AND WHILE I WAS CUTTING THEM, I THOUGHT ABOUT KAZU...

HUH.
BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT.
MY BROTHER TOLD ME IT WAS THE WAY TO DO IT.
OKAY, THEN.
SO YOU WEREN'T RIPPING UP THE BOOKS...
...WITH ANY RELATION TO THE SLASHINGS?
WAIT.
HOLD ON A SEC.
SLASH-INGS?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

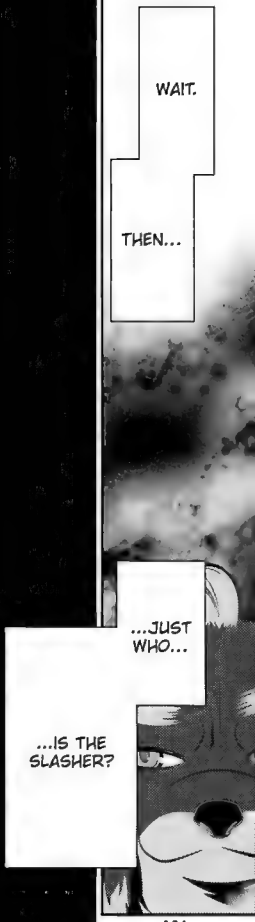
NO!
YOU'RE...
...NOT THE SLASHER?
HOLD ON A SEC.
WRONG
チガウヨ
ALL I DID WAS CUT UP BOOKS IN THE PARK.
THEY WERE ALL IN VAIN?!
ALL MY...
...INTERNAL TUG-OF-WAR ON THE ISSUE!
...WAS PRETTY BAD ON ITS OWN.
YEAH, WELL THAT...
AND KIDNAP HIM.

I NEVER SAW YOU THERE.
BUT THEN YOU RAN AWAY.
YOU SAW ME...
...IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT, DIDN'T YOU?
THEN...
...WHAT ABOUT CUTTING UP HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' UNIFORMS?
I...
I DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT!
AND YOU DIDN'T CUT THE AFRO?
WHO'S THAT?
PET SHOP
IGGY
ACTUALLY ...
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S TRUE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY ILL WILL TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN.
NOT AT ALL.
SO YOU HAVEN'T BEEN RUNNING AMOK AROUND TOWN?

....
Yaawn

I'LL LEAVE MADOKA TO NATSUNO.

I HAVE SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.
ABC


WAIT.
THEN...
...JUST WHO...
...IS THE SLASHER?

...TO LAY THIS CASE TO REST.
IT'S UP TO ME...
AS A REPRESENTA-TIVE TO READERS.
AND A READER AMONG READERS.
BUT COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO THE STREET ATTACKS.
THOSE TWO WERE CLEARLY THE WORK OF MADOKA.
THE CASE OF MY KIDNAP-PING.
AND THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE CUTTING UP BOOKS.
SLOTH
SHINOBU AKIYAMA
BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE OTHER FOUR INCIDENTS?

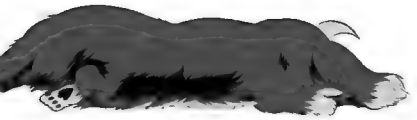
MOO
WHY WAS THE CRIMINAL...
...ABLE TO PLANT THIS MUCH INFORMATION?
WHY WAS THE CULPRIT...
...MAKING ALL THESE ATTACKS AROUND THE CITY?
GLUTTONY
WHY WAS THE PERPETRATOR...
...LEAVING BEHIND BOOKS FROM THE DEADLY SINS SERIES AT THE SCENES OF THE CRIME?
GREED
SLOTH
WRATH
SHINOBU AKIYAMA

AND IT'S THAT FACT ALONE...
...THAT IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING WHO THE WRONGDOER IS.
SHINOBU AKIYAMA...
...AND THE DEADLY SINS SERIES ARE AT THE HEART OF THIS CASE.

WELL?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
IT WAS ALL...
...SET UP BY YOU.
WHEN NATSUNO WAS ACCUSING YOU IN FRONT OF THE PET SHOP...
...YOU SAID...
...YOU WERE BEING "GANGED UP ON."
PET SHO
IGG
WHY WOULD YOU USE THE PLURAL LIKE THAT?
THE ONLY ONE THERE CHEWING YOU OUT...
...WAS NATSUNO.

YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO HEAR MY VOICE...
...SINCE THE VERY START.
AAW.
GUESS THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG.
SUZUNA HIIRAGI.
SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S EDITOR.
THE ONE BEHIND THE STREET ATTACKS...
...HAS SHOWN HERSELF RIGHT BEFORE ME.

CHAPTER 19 ∞ END



MAGURO
EATER
DOG&SCISSORS

FINAL CHAPTER ✂ A DOG IN A LION'S SKIN (2)

BOTHER-SOME? REALLY?
WELL, AS FAR AS THE STREET ATTACKS...
...TO BE HONEST, I WASN'T VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT THEM.
BUT THEY WORKED OUT PRETTY WELL.

EVEN IF...
...I GOT FOUND OUT.
WELL, IT WAS A PRETTY AWFUL STUNT.
AND THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW FAR YOU CAN TAKE A STUNT.

IT'S TRUE THERE WAS A CASE OF A SLASHER.
BUT...
...NO SUCH THING AS A SERIAL SLASHER...
...TARGET-ING SHINOBU AKIYAMA.

THINKING ABOUT IT NOW...
...THE INFORMATION WE GATHERED...
...WAS ALL ARRANGED BY YOU.
THE WHOLE SLASHER PHENOMENON ITSELF...
...WITH THE ATTACKS ON THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AND OFFICE LADY...
...HAD ALREADY EXISTED.
地方都市を狙う連続通り魔事件
SERIAL SLASHER TARGETS LOCAL AREA
BUT MAKING IT OUT TO SEEM THAT SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS WERE EVER INVOLVED...
...WAS AN ILLUSION YOU CONJURED UP YOURSELF.

PASSING ON THAT RUMOR TO THE OLD MAN AT THE BOOKSTORE.
PRETENDING TO BE A REPORTER TO SPREAD GOSSIP AMONGST THE STUDENTS.
STAGING THAT FICTIONAL PIECE ABOUT THE SLASHER ON ONLINE FORUMS.
THAT WAS ALL YOU, WASN'T IT?

FROM THE VERY START...
...WE'VE BEEN DANCING RIGHT IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
GLUTTONY
強欲
GREED
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO EVEN TOLD US...
...ABOUT THE ATTACKS AND THE DEADLY SINS SERIES CONNEC-TION.
傲慢
ARROGANCE
嫉妬
ENVY
怠惰
SLOTH
WRATH

AT LEAST IT SOUNDS THAT WAY TO ME.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU...
....JUST SAY WHAT IT IS YOU WERE AFTER?
OH, MY. SO IT'S COME TO THAT.
HEH.
YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.
BUT RATHER THAN DEDUCING THAT, IT FEELS MORE LIKE DELUDING YOURSELF.

CORRECT.
YOU GET 100 POINTS.
I KNEW IT.
...WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S ...
IT WAS FOR NATSUNO.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT UNLESS THERE'S A CASE, I CAN'T WRITE?
...FROM THAT FIRST TIME WE MET.
...OUR CONVERSATION...
YOU OVERHEARD ...
...OUT OF HER SLUMP.
IT WAS ALL TO GET AKIYAMA-SENSEI...

YOU REALLY SPELLED IT OUT FOR ME.
YES.
SKRTCH SKRTCH SKRTCH

FOR SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS.
THIS IS ALL FOR AKIYAMA-SENSEI.
INDEED.

FOR HER BOOKS.
IT'S ALL FOR THE WRITER.
THE INCIDENT AND THE TRAGEDY.
IF SHE NEEDS ENJOYMENT, I'LL EVEN GIVE THAT.
IF SHE NEEDS A BREAK, I GIVE THAT.
IF SHE NEEDS HARDSHIP, I'LL GIVE THAT TOO.
IF SHE NEEDS A TEST, I'LL GIVE IT TO HER.

IF YOU THINK...
...SHINOBU AKIYAMA IS THAT SHALLOW A WRITER...
...YOU'RE DEAD WRONG.
YOU'RE SAYING...
...I UNDERESTIMATE THE SENSEI?
YOU DO.
YOU THINK SHE'S STUPID.
YOU SPOIL HER.
WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE...
...YOU HAVE NO FAITH IN HER.
....
SHE...
...DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU.

A WRITER WHO CAN'T WRITE ISN'T EVEN WORTH A SPECK OF DUST.
BEING ABLE TO KEEP WRITING IS WHAT GIVES A WRITER'S LIFE MEANING.
IF SHE CAN'T WRITE, SHE HAS NO MEANING.
STILL.
WE'RE NOT SEEING EYE TO EYE.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
SO I'LL MAKE SURE SHE WRITES.
SHE'S NOT UNDER-STANDING ME.
...WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT.
I'M DOING ...
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE...
...BUT I'VE READ EVERY ONE OF SHINOBU AKIYAMA'S BOOKS.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, I FIRMLY BELIEVE...
...THAT SHE WILL BE A WRITER THAT GOES DOWN IN HISTORY.
SO I'M HELPING HER OUT.
I'LL WIPE OUT ANY-THING THAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF HER WRITING.
I'LL ARRANGE FOR ANY-THING SHE NEEDS IN ORDER TO WRITE.
GUIDING HER TO WRITE THE BEST BOOK POSSIBLE...
...IS MY JOB.
IT'S MY WILL.
MY DUTY.
AND FOR THAT...
...I'LL DO WHAT IT TAKES.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
...YOU SEEM AWFULLY CLOSE TO THE SENSEI.
THAT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.
I'VE KNOWN THE SENSEI FOR A LONG TIME SO I CAN TELL.
SHE'S NEVER BEEN SO EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED...
...TO SOMEONE BEFORE.
WHAT EXACTLY ...
...DID YOU DO TO HER?
I DUNNO.
?!
CLACK

IF I WERE...
...TO SKEWER YOU...
KIRIHIME NATSUNO
...AND PUT YOU IN HER MAILBOX...
...I WONDER WHAT SHE'D THINK.
IF SHE WERE FACED WITH...
...THE MUTILATED BODY OF HER PET DOG...
...WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE WOULD GO THROUGH HER HEAD?
WHAT KIND OF FEELINGS WOULD SHE HAVE?
AND WHAT KIND OF BOOK...
...WOULD COME FROM THOSE FEELINGS?

I'M CONFIDENT IT WOULD BE A MASTER-PIECE.
WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO READ IT?

YOU WOULD NEVER ...
...GET AWAY WITH IT.
DON'T WORRY.
IT'D GO SMASHINGLY.

CHK
THOUGH BY THE TIME IT GOT WRITTEN ...
...YOU WOULDN'T BE WITH US ANYMORE.
I'M SURE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE FEATURED IN A BOOK.
CHK CHK

AND WHEN SHE FIGURED OUT IT WAS ME...
...SHE'D PUT ME THROUGH THE SAME TORTURE.
WHICH I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH.

HER BELOVED DOG WAS KILLED BY HER OWN EDITOR.
COMPARED TO THE BOOK THAT THE SENSEI WOULD PRODUCE FROM SUCH A FACT...
...MY LIFE...
...ISN'T EVEN WORTH A SPECK OF DUST.

...JUST KIDDING.

ANY MORE QUES-TIONS?
カチカチカチ
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
IF NOT, THEN I'LL BE HEADING HOME.
THIS OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH TO GET THE SENSEI'S WRITING GOING.
I'LL COME TO COLLECT ...THE MANUSCRIPT IN A FEW DAYS.

YOU THINK ...
...YOU CAN JUST GO HOME?
OF COURSE I DO.
YOU HAVE NO PROOF THAT I DID ANYTHING.

THERE'S NO ANSWER SHEET TO REALITY.
YOUR DEDUCTIONS AND DELUSIONS ...
...CHANGE NOTHING.

I'LL SEE YOU AROUND SOME TIME.
AND THAT'S WHEN I'LL SHARE TRUE PAIN WITH YOU.
UNTIL THEN.
AND SO THE CASE WAS CLOSED.
IT WAS ALL OVER.
THERE YOU ARE.
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME.
WHERE'S MADOKA?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU LOOK TIRED.
YOU DON'T SEE YOUR SISTER OFTEN, SO BE WITH HER TONIGHT.
NATSUNO.
FAST ASLEEP AT MY PLACE
SHE MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY EXHAUSTED.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
LET'S GO.

I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD.

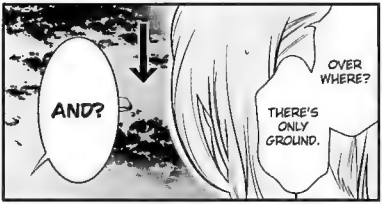
COULD THAT BE THE REASON WHY?
...IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A PRETTY INTERESTING CONVERSATION WITH SUZUNA.
BY THE WAY...

YOU CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME.
SO SAVE US ALL THE TROUBLE AND JUST TALK TO ME.

YOU SILLYHEAD.
YOU OVER-HEARD US ?!

...BUT.
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SOMETHING I COULD JUST EASILY BRING UP.
SHE REALLY PULLED ONE ON US.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SUZUNA WAS THE ONE BEHIND THE STREET ATTACKS.
SHE WINS THIS ROUND.
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I GOT THE STORY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT...
...BUT I'M GOING TO DO THINGS MY WAY...
...LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE.
LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE?
IF WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM ...
...SHOULDN'T WE BRING IT UP TO THE PERSON HERSELF?
SUZUNA HIRAGI

?!!
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK

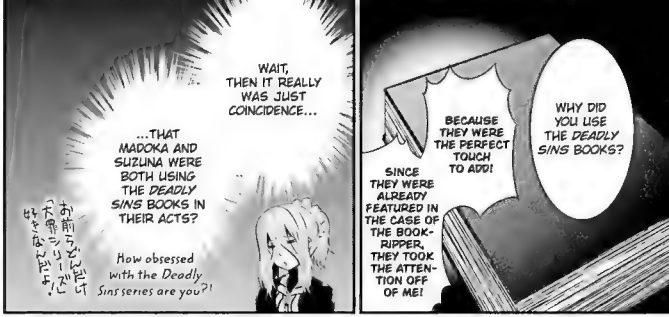

AND?
OVER WHERE?
THERE'S ONLY GROUND.

UH, SENSEI.
YOU CALLED?
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
NOW SIT OVER THERE.

NO PROBLEM.
NO.
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
IT'S PRETTY COLD THIS TIME OF YEAR.

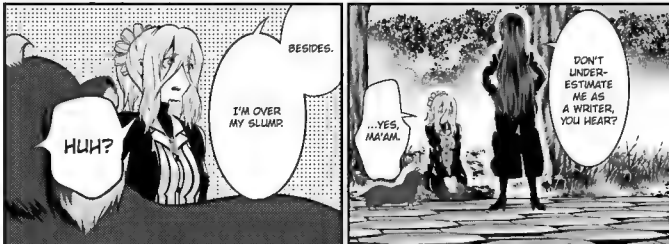
NOW, SUZUNA.
WERE YOU THE ONE BEHIND THIS LATEST CASE?
SSHHH.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
I DID IT!
SHE WASTED NO TIME CONFESSING!
Why didn't she come say it to me before!?
なんで先にこっちに言わないの!?
DID YOU USE MY BOOKS...
...TO MAKE UP THIS WHOLE SERIAL SLASHER THING?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
AND YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ATTACKS ON THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AND THE OFFICE LADY?
NONE!
I JUST USED THE CASES THAT HAD ALREADY HAPPENED!
AND DID YOU USE ONLINE BOARDS...
...TO MAKE UP A THIRD CASE?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
THEN WHAT ABOUT THAT MAN WHO BUMPED INTO US?
I HIRED HIM!
TO MAKE THE THIRD CASE SEEM MORE CREDIBLE!
He charged 200 Yuan. Low!


WAIT, THEN IT REALLY WAS JUST COINCIDENCE...
...THAT MADOKA AND SUZUNA WERE BOTH USING THE DEADLY SINS BOOKS IN THEIR ACTS?
How obsessed with the Deadly Sins series are you?!
WHY DID YOU USE THE DEADLY SINS BOOKS?
BECAUSE THEY WERE THE PERFECT TOUCH TO ADD!
SINCE THEY WERE ALREADY FEATURED IN THE CASE OF THE BOOK-RIPPER, THEY TOOK THE ATTENTION OFF OF ME!

SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CUT THE AFRO AND LEFT BEHIND "GLUTTONY"?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
SO THE AFRO WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS AN ACTUAL VICTIM.

LISTEN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT INTO A SLUMP BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
IF I CAN'T WRITE...
...THAT'S MY PROBLEM.
WHAT HOPE DO I HAVE...
...IF I CAN'T EVEN OVERCOME A SLUMP OR TWO ON MY OWN?


DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME AS A WRITER, YOU HEAR?
...YES, MA'AM.
BESIDES.
I'M OVER MY SLUMP.
HUH?

HUH?!
REMEMBER WHEN I SAID...
...I HADN'T SLEPT THAT NIGHT?
LAST NIGHT.
IT SUDDENLY LIFTED AFTER I'D PUNISHED THAT DOG.
SINCE WHEN?!
YOU ARE SO THICK.
WHAT?!
YOU SHOULDVE SAID SO SOONER!
WHEN I DON'T SLEEP...
...IT'S BECAUSE I'M WRITING.
...YES, MA'AM.
WHO SAID...
...YOU COULD STAND UP?
JUMP
WH...
WHERE'S THE MANU-SCRIPT?
YEAH, WELL.
YOU NEVER ASKED.
THAT...
...IS RIDICULOUS!

PHEW.

THAT'S ALL OF THEM.

WELL?

WHICH DO YOU LIKE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

...WHICH"?

HUH?

THERE'S ...

...SO MANY.

SO MANY?

HEY.

DO YOU MEAN TO SAY...

FWAP

HERE.

HAVE IT.

UWAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH!

WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH!

IF YOU DROP SO MUCH AS ONE SHEET...

...YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS.

THIS IS THE "TOWN SERIES"!

THIS ONE'S THE "DREAM SERIES"!

I...

I NEVER SAW THESE BEFORE!

新作ですか!?

New works?!

WELL, THEY'RE THE STARTS TO THEM.

THAT'S ENOUGH PROOF THEN, RIGHT?

FWAP
HERE.
HAVE IT.
UWAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH!
IF YOU DROP SO MUCH AS ONE SHEET...
...YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS.

PHEW.
THAT'S ALL OF THEM.
WELL?
WHICH DO YOU LIKE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
...WHICH"?
HUH?
THERE'S ...
...SO MANY.
SO MANY?
HEY.
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY...
THIS IS THE "TOWN SERIES"!
THIS ONE'S THE "DREAM SERIES"!
I...
I NEVER SAW THESE BEFORE!
新作ですか!?
New works?!
WELL, THEY'RE THE STARTS TO THEM.
THAT'S ENOUGH PROOF THEN, RIGHT?
WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH WAH!

YES MA'AM.
NOW.
STAY SEATED AND LISTEN.
WHO SAID YOU COULD STAND BACK UP?
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR SLUMP!!
THEY'RE ALL WONDER-FUL!
SENSEI!!

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M OUT OF MY SLUMP.
AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DRAMA YOU CREATED.
I APPRE-CIATE YOU WORRYING ABOUT ME.
BUT DON'T INTERFERE.

BECAUSE IT'S HOW...
...I LIVE AS A WRITER.
I'LL OVERCOME ANY WRITER'S BLOCK...
...AND WRITE.
I'LL WRITE ANYTHING.

...I WILL ONLY BE PLEASANT AND KIND TO YOU FROM NOW ON.
YES?
...YOU DON'T OBEY WHAT I TELL YOU...
IF...
...I DID IT ALL FOR YOU.
BUT...
SUZUNA HIIRAGI.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU FROM HEREON AFTER.
HUH?
I'M SORRY!
I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN!
I PROM-ISE !!

POSE
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND SOME TIME.
AND THAT'S WHEN I'LL SHARE TRUE PAIN WITH YOU.
UNTIL THEN.
NO.
DON'T SAY THAT AGAIN.
You're still going on about that?!

UM, SENSEI?
DO YOU HAVE A SEC?
WELL, LET'S GET HOME.
I'M BEAT.
YEAH.
LET'S GO.

...
CAN I CRASH AT YOUR PLACE TOO?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT...
...I MISSED THE LAST TRAIN.

NOVEMBER 23RD

MY LIFE SERIOUSLY WEARS ME OUT...
...OVER THE MOST UNNECESSARY THINGS.
I OUGHT TO MOVE TO UNINHABITED WILDERNESS OR SOMEWHERE.
新稲業前
SHININABA STATION

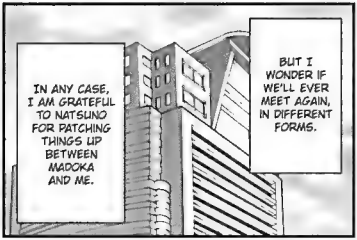
I DON'T MIND GOING INTO THE WILD.
BUT WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?
WELL, IF THE PLACE HAS NO BOOKS...
...I COULDN'T LAST MORE THAN THREE DAYS.
TURNED THE OTHER WAY AROUND...
...YOU'D BE HAPPY ANYWHERE THAT HAS BOOKS?
SURE.

I'M SURPRISED...
...THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.
WHAT WILL?
JUST PLANNING AHEAD.

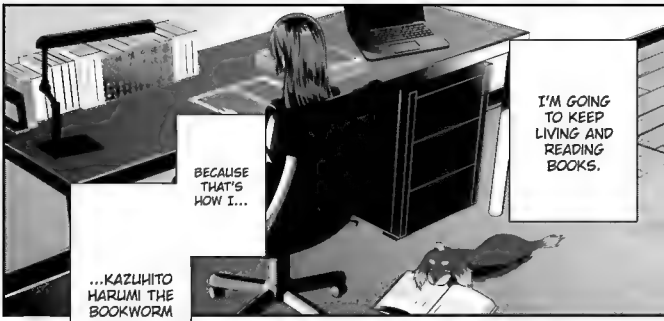
THANKS...
...FOR WAITING FOR ME.
LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK.
THE TRAIN WILL BE COMING SOON.
SISTER OF MINE.
IS IT JUST ME...
...OR DO I SENSE A DISTURBING NUANCE BEHIND YOUR WORDS?
DITTO.

WELL, THEN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING.
FEEL FREE...
...TO COME AGAIN.
HUH?
AND IF YOU WANT...
...YOU CAN THINK THIS DOG'S THE REAL KAZUHITO HARUMI ALL YOU WANT.
I'll give you special permission...
REALLY?
I CAN DO ANYTHING?
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE SAID.
WELL, ALL JOKING ASIDE...
...YOU'RE ALSO A READER OF MINE.
AND IF A READER EVER NEEDS MY HELP...
...I WILL LEND A HAND ANYTIME.
THANK YOU.
AND...

...THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!


IN ANY CASE, I AM GRATEFUL TO NATSUNO FOR PATCHING THINGS UP BETWEEN MADOKA AND ME.
BUT I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER MEET AGAIN, IN DIFFERENT FORMS.

YOU GOING TO MISS HER?
...MAYBE.


I'M GOING TO KEEP LIVING AND READING BOOKS.
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW I...
...KAZUHITO HARUMI THE BOOKWORM LIVE.

THE END
FINAL CHAPTER END

"DOG & SCISSORS- WHAT IF?"
WHAT IF THE CHARACTERS SWITCHED OCCUPATIONS? SHUNSUKE SARAI

KIRIHIME NATSUNO (HEREAFTER: NATSU): "AND SO TODAY WE WILL BE EXPLORING THE SWITCHING OF OCCUPATIONS."

KAZUHITO HARUMI (HEREAFTER: HARU): "OCCUPATION REVERSAL, HUH? SINCE THAT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH ME, I'LL BE READING A BOOK OVER IN THAT CORNER."

NATSU: "YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE, SINCE YOU HAVE NO SKILLS WHATSOEVER."

HARU: "THAT'S NOT TRUE!"

NATSU: "THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE JUST JOBLESS."

HARU: "THAT'S NOT TECHNICALLY TRUE! ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NATSUNO? I HAVE THE VERY PRESTIGIOUS JOB OF SCREENING ALL THE BOOKS THAT COME IN DAILY."

NATSU: "RIGHT. WELL, LEAVING THE LIES OF SOME JOBLESS DOG ASIDE, WE'RE GOING TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SUZUNA AND I SWITCHED JOBS. AND WITH THAT, GET WRITING, HIIRAGI-SENSEI!"

SUZUNA HIIRAGI (HEREAFTER: SUZU): "EEP! THERE'S SOMETHING BLOODCURDLING ABOUT BEING CALLED 'SENSEI' BY AKIYAMA-SENSEI, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT'S FRESH AND GIVING ME ECSTASYYYY! ALL RIGHT. I, SUZUNA HIIRAGI, WILL PERFORM ANY FUNCTION WITH ALL HER MIGHT! I AM THE WRITER SUZUNA HIIRAGI! NOW, AKI...I MEAN, EDITOR AKIYAMA, LET US AIM FOR THE PINNACLE OF THE LITERARY WORLD!"

HARU: "IF YOU'RE REACHING FOR THE TOP, JUST WHAT KIND OF BOOK ARE YOU PLANNING TO WRITE?"

SUZU: "WELL, I'LL DRAW FROM MY LIFE EXPERIENCES TO MAKE THE MOST INCREDIBLE BOOK EVER. PEOPLE WHO READ IT WILL FEEL PAIN, SUFFERING, AND EMBARRASSMENT FILL EVERY CORNER OF THEIR BODY, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY TURN INTO IRREPRESSIBLE PLEASURE. MY BOOK WILL BE THAT KIND OF VIVID AND PAINFUL BOOK!"

HARU: "THIS. IS. TERRIBLE."

NATSU: "I PERSONALLY DON'T CARE WHAT KIND OF BOOK YOU WRITE. JUST GET WRITING ALREADY!"

SUZU: "YES, LEAVE IT TO ME! I'M GOING TO START WRITING UP A STORM!"

NATSU: "YOUR DEADLINE IS 10 SECONDS FROM NOW. TEN, NINE, EIGHT, SEVEN..."

SUZU: "HUH?!"

NATSU: "THREE, TWO, ONE, ZERO. ALL DONE. WHAT'S THIS? EVEN THOUGH YOUR DEADLINE CAME AND WENT ALREADY, YOU HAVEN'T EVEN WRITTEN A SINGLE CHARACTER. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?"

SUZU: "W-WAIT, EDITOR AKIYAMA! THERE'S A REASON FOR THIS!"

NATSU: "REASON?"

SUZU: "YES! THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE CHRONIC SPASMS, I TOOK AN ARROW TO THE KNEE, AND MY SAVE GOT ERASED. IT'S BEEN A JET STREAM ONSLAUGHT OF TRAUMA FOR ME AND I JUST COULDN'T GET ANY WRITING DONE. IT'S THE TRUTH!"

NATSU: "HMM. WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO WRITE. IF IT'D MERELY BEEN A MATTER OF YOU SKIPPING OUT ON WORK, I WAS READY TO PUNISH YOU FULL FORCE."

SUZU: "I DID SKIP OUT!"

HARU: "I KNEW SHE'D SAY THAT!!"

NATSU: "I SEE. SO NOT ONLY DO YOU MISS YOUR DEADLINE, BUT THEN YOU LIE? SUCH A NAUGHTY WRITER REQUIRES A FITTING PUNISHMENT. I'LL USE MY RED PEN TO PROOFREAD ALL OVER YOUR BODY. NOW! TAKE OUT THIS PART! FILL IN MORE HERE! CENTER ALIGN THIS PART!"

SUZU: "THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!"

HARU: "HAAH. THIS IS LIKE YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM USUAL. WHAT WAS THE POINT OF EVEN SWAPPING OCCUPATIONS?"

MADOKA HARUMI (HEREAFTER: MADO): "HEY, KAZU? WHAT ARE NATSUNO AND HER FRIEND DOING?"

HARU: "WHOA! MADOKA?! YOU CAN'T SEE THIS! YOUR BRAIN WILL ROT OUT OF YOUR HEAD!"

MADO: "...AN OCCUPATION SWAP? THAT SOUNDS FUN! KAZU, LET'S TRY IT TOO!"

HARU: "HUH? BUT WHAT'S THERE TO SWAP? YOU'RE JUST A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT..."

*...AND I'M A JOBLESS...I MEAN, BOOKWORM DOG, SO THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING INTERESTING ENOUGH TO SWAP."

MADO: "THEN HOW ABOUT YOU BE THE LITTLE SISTER AND I'LL BE THE BIG BROTHER!"

HARU: "WE CAN SWITCH THOSE ROLES?! BUT BEING SIBLINGS ISN'T ANY KIND OF OCCUPATION!"

MADO: "HEY, KAZU.* JUST FOR NOW YOU CAN THINK OF ME AS YOUR BIG BROTHER."

HARU: "LOOK, THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN, I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD RESPOND TO A NAME THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF POTATO.

MADO: "HMM. KAZU, YOU DON'T SEEM VERY INTO THIS. IS IT BECAUSE YOU REALLY DON'T LOVE YOUR OWN LITTLE SISTER?"

HARU: "NO, IT'S NOT THAT."

MADO: "I KNOW! INSTEAD OF BEING A LITTLE SISTER, HOW ABOUT YOU BE CURRY INSTEAD?"

HARU: "WHAT KIND OF WACKED OUT IDEA IS THAT? THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN OCCUPATION SWAP. CURRY ISN'T A JOB, IT'S A FOOD! EVEN IF I SAID YOU COULD GO WITH CURRY, THAT WOULD ONLY MEAN THAT YOUR OCCUPATION IS BEING CURRY!"

MADO: "I LOVE CURRY. I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH CURRY. IN SHORT, MY MIND, BODY AND SOUL ARE CURRY!"

HARU: "WHAT DO I DO? MY SISTER'S GONE CRAZY WITH CURRY!"

MADO: "THERE, THERE. JUST ACT MORE LIKE CURRY AND SETTLE DOWN, KAZU...I MEAN, KAZU-CURRY."

HARU: "STOP IT WITH THE WEIRD NAMES! AND WHAT'S ACTING LIKE CURRY SUPPOSED TO MEAN ANYWAY?"

NATSU: "WHAT ELSE BUT TO BE EATEN?"

HARU: "EDITOR NATSUNO'S HERE?!"

NATSU: "ALL THAT PUNISHING MADE ME HUNGRY. I'LL DEVOUR YOU HEARTILY, SO COME OVER HERE."

HARU: "MADOKA, SAVE ME!"

MADO: "NATSUNO, I WAS EXPECTING THIS, SO I BROUGHT PLENTY OF CUSTOM SPICES WITH ME!"

HARU: "YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP ME?! I'M NOT HOLDING MY BREATH, BUT YOU'RE MY LAST HOPE, SO SAVE ME, SUZUNA!"

GUEST COMMENTS

SHUNSUKE SARA!

SARA

IT'S THE FINAL VOLUME OF THE MANGA VERSION OF *DOG & SCISSORS*. OOBA-SENSEI'S RENDITION OF *DOG & SCISSORS* JUST GOT MORE AND MORE CAPTIVATING WITH EVERY CHAPTER. I REALLY ENJOYED GETTING TO READ IT MONTHLY AS A READER. AND I'M A HAPPY MAN HAVING GOTTEN IT MADE INTO SUCH A WONDERFUL MANGA. OOBA-SENSEI, EDITORS U-SAMA AND H-SAMA, AND ALL YOU READERS WHO STUCK WITH US TO THE END, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO WHATEVER THE NEXT PROJECT KAMON OOBA PUTS OUT!

I

AT LAST, IT'S THE FINAL VOLUME OF THE MANGA *DOG & SCISSORS*! THANK YOU, OOBA-SENSEI! I LOVED HOW IRRESISTIBLY YOU DREW OUR CUTE MALE DOG LEAD AND SPOOKY HEROINE. OUR LIFE-LONG DREAM OF HAVING A WORK OF OURS GET ADAPTED INTO A MANGA HAS COME TRUE AND IN THE BEST FORM POSSIBLE. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS STORY IN THE NOVEL VERSION OF *DOG & SCISSORS*, AVAILABLE IN JAPAN THROUGH FAMITSU BUNKO. EVEN WACKIER CHARACTERS APPEAR IN IT!

SUZU: "PLEASE WAIT, EDITOR AKIYAMA! I'M MUCH TASTIER THAN THAT DOG!"

HARU: "GO TO HELL! DAMMIT, IF I SWITCH OCCUPATIONS ONCE MORE THAN I'LL JUST GO ON THE EATING SIDE!"

NATSU: "HUH? B-BUT...D-DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO EAT ME? IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...AHEM. I'LL BE YOUR CURRY."

MADO: "HOLD IT, NATSUNO! I'M THE ONE WHO GETS TO BE EATEN BY KAZU! I DON'T MIND IF HE EATS ME...SO I'LL BECOME THE CURRY!"

SUZU: "THEN! I'LL BE CURRY TOO!"

HARU: "CURRY'S SUDDENLY THE MOST POPULAR ONE?! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING ANYMORE!"

NATSU: "IN ANY CASE, JUST BE A GOOD LITTLE BOY AND GET EATEN BY ME! CONSIDER IT AN HONOR TO BECOME ONE WITH MY BODY!"

HARU: "WHAT?! NOW YOU'RE BRINGING OUT ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT?!"

NATSU: "WELL, THIS IS THE FINALE SO LET EVERYONE HEAR A REALLY GOOD SCREAM."

HARU: "EEEYAAAAAAAAAAH!!"

THE RUCKUS THIS HUMAN AND DOG CAN CAUSE, DOESN'T CHANGE EVEN IN A "WHAT IF" SCENARIO.

CONGRATULATIONS ON VOL. 4 OF THE MANGA GOING ON SALE!
I LOVED SEEING MAGURO EATER TAKE THE STAGE IN THE MANGA VERSION!
TETSUHIRO NABESHIMA
MADOKA HANAMI
MAGURO

AFTERWORD FOUR

IT'S THE LAST VOLUME. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR STICKING WITH US TO THE VERY END!
I'M LIKE KAZUHITO AFTER HE BECAME A DOG. I SPEND MY DAYS READING AND SLEEPING. IT WAS CLOSE TO THREE YEARS AGO WHEN MY EDITOR BROUGHT IT UP TO ME THAT "I THINK IT'D BE RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY, SO WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY?" WITH THE MANGA VERSION OF THIS STORY. WHEN THEY SAW MY DESIGN OF KAZUHITO THE DOG, THEY SAID "YOU'RE GOING TO KILL YOUR RIGHT HAND IF YOU HAVE TO MANUALLY TONE ALL THIS UNLESS YOU SWITCH OVER TO WORKING DIGITALLY." UNTIL THAT POINT, I HAD NO CG EXPERIENCE BEYOND MARIO PAINT. CONSEQUENTLY, I SPENT CLOSE TO A YEAR FORCING MYSELF TO SWITCH OVER TO THE DIGITAL MEDIUM. THE EXPERIENCE REALLY TAUGHT ME A LOT.
I'M SO BAD WITH TECHNOLOGY – IT BORDERS ON A PHOBIA. BUT EVEN I WAS ABLE TO ADVANCE TO A LEVEL WHERE WHEN MY PC FREEZES UP I CAN HOLD DOWN THE POWER BUTTON WITH CONFIDENCE.
LIKE MY EDITOR SAID, IT REALLY WAS RIGHT UP MY ALLEY AND I ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF THE LAST TWO YEARS DRAWING THIS!

BOTH SARAI-SENSEI'S, NABESHIMA-SENSEI, THE EDITORS AT FAMITSU BUNKO, MY FORMER EDITOR, MY PRESENT EDITOR, AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO WAS INVOLVED: THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

FOR THIS DRAWING, MY FIRST SHOT AT IT WAS DRAWING EVERYONE SMEARED IN CURRY WITH A DARK AND FOREBODING AIR TO IT. BUT ALL THAT BLANK INK WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR THE DRAWING, SO I QUICKLY DID A REVISED VERSION OF IT.

WELL, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND!

MARCH 2014
KAMON OOBA

DOG & SCISSORS

Volume 4

KADOKAWA MANGA

Original Work by
Shunsuke Sarai

Art by
Kamon Ooba

Character Design by
Tetsuhiro Nabeshima

INU TO HASAMI WA TSUKAIYOU
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